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Seventy-second year

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New York

President:	Mr. Amendola	(Italy)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Sadykov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of sympathy in connection with the terrorist attack in New York City

The President: On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I should like to condemn, in the strongest terms, the cowardly and unconscionable terrorist attack on 31 October in New York City — home to United Nations Headquarters — that targeted innocent civilians. The members of the Security Council express their deepest condolences to the families of those killed, and offer their sympathy to the people and Governments of the United States of America, Argentina and Belgium. I ask members to stand for a moment of silence for the victims.

The members of the Council observed a minute of silence.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: As this is the first public meeting of the Security Council for the month of November, I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Security Council, to pay tribute to His Excellency Ambassador François Delattre, Permanent Representative of France, for his service as President of the Council for the month of October. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Delattre and his delegation for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Grandi.

Mr. Grandi: A few weeks ago, I was in Bangladesh, at the border with Myanmar, witnessing the most rapid refugee exodus since the massive population movements of the mid-1990s. It was a stark illustration of what happens when the root causes of conflict and violence are not addressed and when the relationship between a State and some of its people breaks down. The result is a human tragedy on a dramatic scale.

Around the world, countries that border crisis zones are struggling to absorb the social, economic and political shocks of large-scale refugee movements, while the broader consequences of unresolved conflicts reverberate across and beyond regions. Protecting refugees is a binding obligation, reflecting core principles and shared values, but it is also a contribution to regional and global stability. That is why I am grateful to the Council and the Italian presidency for the opportunity to address the Council today.

My predecessor's last comprehensive briefing to the Security Council as High Commissioner for Refugees was in January 2009 (S/PV.6062). In that briefing, he shared his concern that we might be entering a period of deepening and interlocking crises. Almost nine years on, that bleak prospect has become a stark reality. The number of people who are forcibly displaced worldwide is now approaching 66 million, up from 42 million in 2009. That includes 17.2 million refugees under the responsibility of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), representing a 70 per cent increase since then.

A succession of major new crises has caused massive displacement across virtually all regions. The cataclysmic conflict in Syria has driven 11 million people from their homes. Syria and Iraq today account for a quarter of all those forcibly displaced globally. New crises have developed in Libya, Mali, Ukraine, Yemen and the Lake Chad basin. Many have unfolded in ungoverned spaces, driven by varying combinations of poverty and underdevelopment, environmental degradation, inequality and persecution. In northern Central America, gang violence has become a main cause of displacement. Situations that appeared to have stabilized, including some that had seen voluntary repatriation movements, as in Burundi, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, have been affected by fresh crises, triggering new refugee outflows.

At the same time, protracted crises have remained entrenched. Refugees fled Afghanistan almost 40 years ago, but more than 2 million remain in Iran and Pakistan. The terrorist attack in Mogadishu last month was a grim illustration of the instability affecting Somalia.

Some Somali refugees are returning and need support, but 800,000 still live in sprawling settlements or cities across the region. Young Afghans and Somalis are moving further afield as part of mixed migratory flows.

The sharp rise in forced displacement reflects weaknesses in international cooperation and declining capacity to prevent, contain and resolve conflicts. Competing interests are being pursued through proxy wars instead of being resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. Neglected local crises gather pace and become transnational, with broader implications. The focus is on short-term interests rather than on long-term collective stability.

Have we become unable to broker peace? I ask this question here in the Security Council — whose raisons d'être are peace and security — because I see the direct impact of these failures every day on the lives of tens of millions of people who have been forced to abandon their homes, with grim prospects of being able to return, sometimes for generations. When I meet refugees, their first question is not about food or shelter, but about peace and security — because it is security, and peace, that will convince them to return home.

And weaknesses in international solidarity are also eroding protection for those who flee. Many refugee-hosting States, particularly those neighbouring conflict zones, keep their borders open and generously host thousands — sometimes millions — of refugees. But certain States — often those least impacted by refugee flows, and often wealthy ones — have closed their borders, restricting access to asylum and deterring entry.

Last year's Summit for Refugees and Migrants, and its concluding New York Declaration, called for comprehensive responses to refugee flows, extending beyond humanitarian action and leading up to a global compact for refugees. Since then, important steps have been taken in pursuit of this vision by Member States, development institutions such as the World Bank, civil society and the private sector. We are making significant progress, but a full response to today's massive displacement can be achieved only through action to restore security, resolve conflict and build peace. I wish to draw the Council's attention to five areas where I see particular scope for the Council's engagement.

The first area is prevention. Prevention is possible. Decisive action last January helped resolve a political crisis in Gambia and allowed refugees to return home quickly. We need more such concerted efforts. Early action is critical to addressing the causes of conflict and to avoiding deepening displacement crises. Displacement, on the other hand, is a symptom of a new or worsening crisis.

A current example is the Central African Republic. Ongoing conflict along religious grounds has once again driven over 1 million people from their homes, with internal displacement up 50 per cent since January. I fully support the Secretary-General's call for fresh efforts to build peace through dialogue, and his reminder to the international community to support the courage and resilience of the Central African people.

The situation in Burundi also demands renewed attention. There are 420,000 refugees from Burundi in the region. The Government of Tanzania has been publicly encouraging returns, and UNHCR is working closely with both Governments to ensure that these are voluntary, safe and dignified. But without concerted action to build stability inside Burundi, further conflict, as well as internal displacement and refugee outflows, may occur. Responding to refugee crises in Africa, generally speaking, continues to be frustrating, as they are often generated by conflicts suffering from a deficit of political attention, and they are made more difficult by a serious deficit of resources.

A second area relates to the critical role of peacekeepers. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as in other countries, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in that country has played an important role in enhancing security and enabling displaced people to progressively rebuild their lives. However, fresh and ongoing conflict is driving further displacement. Over 100,000 Congolese refugees have fled in the past year alone, and internal displacement has swelled to over 4 million people — 50 per cent higher than just two years ago. As displacement escalates, we count on the Mission to once again play an important role — for example, in increasing access and enhancing security in Kasaï, as humanitarian efforts are scaled up.

And, as in other operations, such as in South Sudan, Darfur Mali, and the Central African Republic, peacekeepers contribute to the safety of humanitarian staff and help enhance our access, including through security escorts, health facilities and evacuations. We must preserve the neutral, impartial character of humanitarian action, but these examples show that it

is often necessary and indeed possible to work with peacekeeping missions in a manner that draws on our diverse strengths for the protection of civilians we are all mandated to serve. That is a key perspective for the Council to consider in its discussions over mission mandates.

A third and growing area is addressing complex migratory movements in fragile, unstable situations. These frequently take place where institutions are weak or absent and violent extremism and criminal networks have taken hold. Along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe in particular — stretching from sub-Saharan Africa through Libya to Italy — refugees and migrants continue to face grave exploitation and abuse. Together with the International Organization for Migration, we are working on a comprehensive set of protection and solution interventions in countries of origin, transit and asylum, addressing the drivers of these movements, strengthening the capacity of countries to address refugee and migratory flows, and expanding resettlement and other legal pathways. Lack of security, especially in Libya, complicates these efforts, but working in coordination with the United Nations Support Mission there, we are expanding our presence and making progress.

In parallel, strong, collective action is needed to tackle the horrific abuses perpetrated by traffickers and to identify and prosecute them. I commend the important initiatives already undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, the European Union Naval Force in the Eastern Mediterranean and others. I wish to ask the Council to also consider the use of sanctions against known senior figures and companies engaged in trafficking.

Fourthly, sustainable peace is critical to securing solutions to displacement. Very few displacement situations in the past decade have been brought to a definitive conclusion. One was in Côte d'Ivoire. Early, resolute political intervention by regional actors brought to a grave political crisis a close. That enabled more than a quarter of a million refugees and large numbers of internally displaced persons to return home. But that is an exception, sadly. Only half a million refugees worldwide returned home last year. The peace process in Colombia offers hope, but has not yet translated into significant solutions for refugees and the internally displaced.

In Myanmar, security and the establishment of respect for human rights and the rule of law in Rakhine state are essential prerequisites for the return of refugees. Progress on citizenship for the stateless Rohingya is absolutely crucial, as will be community reconciliation and investment in inclusive development, benefiting all communities. The recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State are a recognized blueprint in those respects.

It is critical that the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the international community at large work constructively to assist both countries. UNHCR stands ready to provide support and expertise, including through the joint working group discussed in bilateral talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar. We believe that our role is critical to ensuring that international standards are met and returns are sustainable. I seek the Council's support in conveying that message to the concerned States.

In South Sudan, the promise brought by independence has been tragically squandered. One-third of the population is displaced and abandoned by its political leaders. Two million South Sudanese refugees are now in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda. More than half a million arrived this year alone. The pressure on host countries is immense.

The situation of the 2 million internally displaced people in South Sudan is also dire. More than 200,000 live in overcrowded, poorly serviced protection-of-civilian sites. Together with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, we are trying to identify alternative solutions so that the displaced can start to carve out a more stable existence. The support of the Security Council for that effort will be important, but what is crucial is to break the political stalemate.

The announcement by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development of a high-level revitalization forum is welcome. I urge the Council to press further for time-bound, meaningful actions that can bring about a joint ceasefire upheld by all parties and the full and inclusive implementation of the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. I fear that failure to do so will mean that humanitarian efforts will soon reach their limit and more people will die.

Finally and linked to my last point, protection must be sustained while solutions are pursued, including through support to host countries. Here, I turn to Iraq and Syria, where we are moving into a new and complicated phase. In Iraq, despite military progress, grave protection challenges, including new displacement, forced evictions and revenge attacks, must be overcome to prevent further displacement and allow for return. Investments in security have prevailed so far, and with reason. Peacebuilding, recovery and stabilization are now critical to bringing communities together and guaranteeing a conflict-free future for a diverse nation.

In Syria, civilians continue to bear the brunt of major military confrontations at key strategic locations. Meanwhile, fragile ceasefires and shifts in territorial control have restored relative calm to some parts of the country. Although there has been substantial new displacement, many internally displaced people and much smaller numbers of refugees have returned home this year, often to places devastated by the conflict.

Signs of resilience are starting to emerge, and it is important that those be nurtured, especially if progress on de-escalation is achieved in parallel at the Astana talks. Meanwhile, significant obstacles to sustainable return persist, including ongoing military operations, insecurity and other protection risks; a lack of legal status and documentation; housing, land and property challenges; destroyed shelter and infrastructure; and a lack of services and livelihoods.

International protection and support for Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries must be sustained during this uncertain period. Yet, funding for refugee and resilience programmes has dropped, with only 49 per cent of the funds needed received so far in 2017. As a result, the situation of Syrian refugees deteriorates and pressures for onward movement continue to grow. My appeal is that, as the members of the Council focus on the different tracks, hopefully leading to peace in Syria, they do not lose sight of the need to support refugees and countries hosting them. We must resist the pressure for premature returns, as that would be a destabilizing factor in that fragile context. On the other hand, voluntary and supported returns — when the time comes — will be a key contribution to sustainable peace.

I wish to share my appreciation to the Security Council for the visits it has undertaken to meet refugees, internally displaced people and other crisis-affected communities. As I am sure those present will agree, listening to their voices is a profoundly moving experience, and also a powerful reminder of the responsibility that we all share to ensure that they are protected and their plight is resolved.

As I address the Council, millions of severely traumatized children, their lives blighted by atrocities witnessed and deprived of education, are facing an uncertain future. Women are struggling to care for their children on their own, in makeshift shelters with little privacy, with their partners dead or missing. Elderly people see their lives drawing to a close in a country that is not their own. Thousands of people are stranded at borders, frustrated and confused by arbitrary and dehumanizing treatment and new barriers to entry, and suffer deep scars from the persecution they fled and the mistreatment they suffered in their flight to safety.

International cooperation has the power to bring about real change to their lives. I am fully committed to ensuring that the UNHCR plays its role, and I know the same is true of UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other trusted humanitarian partners. But giving hope to millions of uprooted people and avoiding a repeat of the recent massive outflows will ultimately rest on political solutions. We and they, the uprooted people, are counting on the leadership of the Council to help deliver those solutions.

The President: I thank Mr. Grandi for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I start by vehemently condemning the terrrorist attack in New York and expressing solidarity with the United States.

As this is the first meeting of the month, I would like to congratulate Italy on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and to pledge the fullest support of my delegation. I also wish to express our appreciation to France for its very successful presidency last month, and in particular for the very timely initiative to try to shine a light on the security and other related challenges facing the member States of the Group of Five for the Sahel.

We thank the Italian presidency for organizing this important briefing on the issue of refugees, which has become one of the most pressing challenges of our time. We are very pleased to see the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and we appreciate his briefing on the challenges and the way forward regarding international protection for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. We appreciate the work he has done since assuming the heavy responsibility of leading that critical agency, all the more so today when the challenge has become so enormous.

Reports of the unprecedented levels of global forced displacement, which have surpassed the number of persons forcibly displaced as a result of the Second World War, are indeed very alarming. Even more worrying is that there is no encouraging trend, neither with respect to the conditions causing such displacement nor the response at the global level to address the challenge.

The number of forcibly displaced persons in Africa continues to increase, primarily due to conflict, persecution and a lack of durable solutions. The Security Council missions to the Lake Chad basin and the Sahel region certainly helped to enhance our understanding of the enormity of the challenge. In our subregion, with nearly 1 million refugees and 1.5 million internally displaced persons, Somalia has remained one of the most protracted displacement situations in the world.

However, with the ongoing conflict in neighbouring South Sudan, Ethiopia, as well as other neighbouring countries, is receiving large numbers of South Sudanese refugees. The recent surge in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has created unprecedented challenges, and the burden on countries hosting large numbers of refugees is constantly increasing, something that is often overlooked. The great deficit in burden-sharing must be recognized — I am more or less repeating here what the High Commissioner already stressed. I also agree with what he said about the need for a speedy resolution of the political problem in South Sudan.

The matter of burden-sharing and enhanced cooperation in the search for international protection and a durable solution — that is, local integration, resettlement and voluntary repatriation and reintegration for refugees — is more urgent than ever before. Countries hosting large numbers of refugees, such as mine, continue to open up their borders to refugees and to provide international protection through the provision of employment opportunities, out-of-camp policies and self-reliance schemes. That is also in line with the commitment that we made at the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit in 2016. However, we continue to face serious challenges in funding programmes that support refugees — for instance, Ethiopia's refugee response plan for the year 2017 has a funding gap of 75 per cent, which will impact the integrity of humanitarian assistance and has so far resulted in food cuts of 19 per cent.

While commending the generosity of countries that offer resettlement for refugees, which remains indispensable in terms of sharing the burden with countries that host large numbers of refugees, the number of resettlement opportunities remains minimal. As such, with the difficulty in financing refugee response plans in such countries, and with limited resettlement opportunity at the global level, the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of refugees continues to be the preferred solution in the majority of refugee situations.

We believe it is important to create favourable conditions for the sustainable, voluntary return of refugees to their countries of origin and to ensure the safety and security of returnees. In that regard, tackling the root causes of some of the protracted refugee situations, and thereby facilitating conditions for voluntary repatriation and return, as well as the reintegration of refugees, is absolutely imperative. That serves to underscore the need to find durable political solutions to conflicts so as to ensure that people are not compelled to flee their countries of origin in the first place in order to find safety as a result of conflict, terrorism and violent extremism.

Furthermore, countries emerging from conflicts certainly need sustained international support; for instance, reports from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during this session of the General Assembly indicate that approximately 34,000 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia in 2016, while the fragility, instability and insecurity of the country continue to affect its reabsorption capacity and to hamper further voluntary returns.

In our view, the voluntary return of Somali refugees will be sustainable only with the continued support of the international community in maintaining peace and security in the country, particularly with sustained support to the Federal Government of Somalia and in fighting Al-Shabaab. That will be critical in creating

conditions that are conducive to further repatriation and reintegration of Somali refugees in Somalia.

At the end of the day, there is no better approach than prevention, as well as sustaining peace and addressing root causes to ensure that meaningful progress is made to tackle the vexing challenge of refugees, and the displacement of people in general. The High Commissioner is right in highlighting that aspect of the challenge we face and in his emphasis on prevention. Of course, no meaningful progress can be made when the issue is politicized, as often happens. Our region has not been entirely free from that, which only complicates matters. Part of the remedy is for the Council to maintain unity in the initiative it takes to address displacement issues.

I would like to conclude by affirming Ethiopia's commitment to working with all the relevant parties in addressing some of the root causes of forced displacement in our subregion, as well as to continue providing international protection to refugees in Ethiopia and maintaining an open-door policy towards refugees.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): At the outset, Sir, I wish you all the best in your month of the presidency. I also want to thank United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi for his compelling, but concerning, remarks this morning.

We meet today at a crucial time for global displacement, as the number of people forcibly displaced is at an all-time high since the Second World War and, sadly, the trajectory is only upwards. Today I want to share the story of just one of the 65 million people currently displaced around the world. It is the story of a mother from Rakhine state faced with the hardest decision of her life: to flee into the unknown or face the violence engulfing the province that she calls home. She told a journalist last month:

> "We were happy, but now we are in this chaos; they are killing people and burning houses, and people are unable to stay".

Faced with such brutality, she had no choice but to flee with her husband and children, risking the journey to Cox's Bazar. She said:

> "When we got in the boat, we were scared, as water were getting in. I was scared that it would sink. People were crying."

Her husband went missing as they fled. "I don't know if he is dead or alive", she said.

Together with her children, she eventually reached safety, and I pay tribute to Bangladesh for the humanitarian assistance provided to her and to so many others.

But that family's story has been repeated and repeated and repeated over the past months. Only two days ago, a boat carrying refugees to Bangladesh capsized, claiming the lives of at least four people. It a story that will only keep being told until the conflict pushing them away is fundamentally addressed and they are allowed to return home.

As Filippo rightly said, whether in Burma, in Syria or anywhere else in the world, the Council has a unique role to play in maintaining the peace and security that would have stopped that family and so many others like them from having to flee their home. We have a special responsibility also to hold to account those who do not respect international humanitarian law or refugee law and those who fuel displacement.

Simply put, the stark number of people in need today tells us that what we doing is not working. Refugees are spending longer and longer displaced, often in poverty, with a dwindling hope of return. A new global approach is now needed to tackle protracted crises, and a more comprehensive response is required to help the growing number of people currently displaced.

That is why the United Kingdom strongly supports the aims of the comprehensive refugee response framework. It focuses on long-term, sustainable solutions. These help build the self-reliance of refugees and ease pressure on countries such as Kenya, Uganda or Lebanon, which have generously welcomed and hosted so many. The framework means delivering jobs, education and better services to refugees and host communities, while also better coordinating the international response.

The United Kingdom actively supports this approach where the new refugee response framework is being rolled out. We are also already delivering the sort of long-term response to refugees' needs that the framework recommends, including through job compacts to provide tens of thousands of refugees with the opportunity to work in countries such as Jordan or Ethiopia, as well as innovative education programmes and support for host communities and refugees alike.

To make these approaches work, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has a vital role to play in dialogue with Governments, partnerships with other actors, and giving advice and support where needed. In Jordan, we welcome the cash assistance that it is giving to refugees to meet basic food needs. In Turkey, we support the assistance that it is providing to refugees to prepare for the oncoming winter, and in the response to the crisis in Burma, it also has a role to play in the returns process, in cooperation with the Bangladeshi authorities.

But to deliver all this and more, it is clear that UNHCR, like all the other parts of the United Nations, will have to reform, and I welcome High Commissioner Grandi's commitment to this. UNHCR has a central role working with other agencies in reforming the humanitarian system. It is important that UNHCR continue to work better and more collaboratively with partners on the ground, including with development actors. We want to see improved transparency, increased accountability to beneficiaries, more multi-year programming and a continued scale-up in the use of cash.

In the face of an unprecedented need, it is clear that we cannot just do business as usual. We need a new approach, and we look forward to working with colleagues from the Security Council, UNHCR and elsewhere to achieve that new approach.

Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni (Sweden): Let me just start by saying how saddened we are at the horrific attack in New York. We convey our condolences to everyone affected, and our thoughts are with them.

Let me also thank France for its presidency last month and welcome Italy as well as wish it good luck for this month.

Let me begin by thanking the High Commissioner for being here and briefing us today. Our work and that of the High Commissioner and his Office are intimately linked. For when we fail to prevent or resolve conflict, it is the High Commissioner and the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that stand with neighbouring countries and humanitarian partners to provide refuge and relief to those forced to flee their homes. At the same time, how the international community responds to forced displacement across borders has clear consequences for international peace and security.

There are now more people than ever in need of UNHCR's assistance. We commend the High Commissioner and his staff for their continued leadership and for providing a voice to refugees, who arrive with nothing except heartbreak, fear and their futures stolen and erased by conflict and displacement.

High Commissioner Grandi began his presentation at the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh. Like him, we are deeply concerned by the situation in Myanmar and Bangladesh. We know he needs our support to respond to the needs of those on both sides of the border. We welcome the important financial contributions to the response made at the Myanmar conference in Geneva some weeks ago, and we encourage all Member States to ensure that he and his partners have the resources they need to do their job.

If the Rohingya refugees are to return home, a political solution to the crisis is essential. Sweden fully supports the way forward laid out by the Secretary-General. We must address the immediate crisis by ending the violence and ensuring humanitarian access, while at the same time taking steps to achieve a lasting resolution to the conflict in Rakhine state. This includes the issue of citizenship for the Rohingya. Only then will refugees be able to return home voluntarily and to dignified conditions, where they can begin to rebuild their lives with confidence in the future.

The United Nations should be invited to assist in this process. UNHCR has a key role to play in providing support, expertise and experience in upholding international standards, and ensuring sustainable conditions for return.

Sweden was one of the original 26 countries that negotiated the 1951 Convention. Since then, our commitment to the plight of refugees has not waned. Today UNHCR continues to have our full political support. The growing numbers of forcibly displaced people mean that there is also a need for enhanced and sustained financial support for UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations. Support is not needed only in those places that are currently grabbing the headlines, but also, as the High Commissioner reminded us today, in protracted situations that risk being forgotten, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We encourage all Council members to maintain and increase their financial support to UNHCR, in particular through flexible, unearmaked financing that allows UNHCR to respond quickly in crisis situations.

The High Commissioner has illustrated the clear links between conflict and refugee flows. As I mentioned at the beginning of my statement, the inability to prevent and resolve conflicts often results in large-scale refugee flows that have enormous human and political costs. These flows often in turn contribute to instability and conflict, resulting in a mutually reinforcing cycle of conflict and displacement.

The protracted refugee crisis in Syria is a clear illustration of the need for early warning and early action to prevent conflicts and subsequent forced displacement. We commend UNHCR's efforts in addressing the needs of the millions of displaced persons resulting from the Syria crisis.

We agree with the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner that we must redouble our efforts to prevent conflict from emerging, to manage and end conflicts when they do, and to prevent a slide back into conflict when peace is achieved. That is the mission of the United Nations, and all parts of the Organization must work together to that end. The Council must live up to its responsibility by using all the tools at our disposal to end conflict and sustain peace. By doing so, we can enable people to return home.

International humanitarian law and human rights law are essential for the protection of the lives, health and dignity or persons caught up in conflict. They must be respected at all times. In addition, humanitarian organizations must be given full and unimpeded humanitarian access to refugees in need of assistance and protection. Half of the world's refugees are children. Refugee children, particularly unaccompanied minors, are particularly vulnerable and should receive protection, health care, education, psychosocial support and the hope needed to rebuild their futures.

Humanitarian relief can be only one part of the response to forced displacement. Millions of people around the world are trapped in protracted refugee situations and living in limbo. Providing dignity, particularly for refugees trapped in these circumstances, requires both short-term approaches and long-term, durable solutions. We continue to see generosity and solidarity towards refugees across the world. It is essential that we recognize the role of those countries and communities that are hosting large number of refugees and provide them with support. Working together, the international community and host-country Governments can provide for refugees' self-reliance, livelihood opportunities and host-community development. This will also help to maximize the positive contribution that refugees make to their host communities. We also welcome the important partnership of UNHCR with the World Bank in this regard.

By working closely together, the United Nations system can ensure that refugees are not left behind in development processes. We strongly support UNHCR's coordination roll, building on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, in reaching agreement on the global compact on refugees, to be adopted next year. The new global compact will provide an important framework for comprehensive responses to large-scale and protracted displacement.

Let me conclude by thanking High Commissioner Grandi once again for his briefing. In light of the clear interlinkages between our work and his, we would encourage the High Commissioner to come back to the Council more often and to alert us when he believes early action or support from the Council is needed. We would also welcome the opportunity to receive another update and to have another broad exchange with him in the course of 2018.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): Let me first congratulate you personally, Sir, and wish Italy every success in its presidency of the Security Council. I also thank you for your high praise of the French presidency and assure you of France's full support.

I also thank the High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, for his important briefing and pay tribute more broadly to him and his teams for their outstanding work and exemplary commitment. In the words of the President of the Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is for France "the guardian of our lodestar". It is a compass that must guide our action, and France will always be at its side so as to guarantee refugees the protection they need and that it is our moral, legal and political duty to provide.

The insecurity and massive violations of human rights that fuel conflicts, as well as the impunity that accompanies them, are the primary causes of displacement, which in turn destabilizes States. It is therefore up to the Security Council to remedy this situation in the context of its mandate as guardian of international peace and security. I also recall that the forced transfer of populations is likely to constitute a

crime against humanity as defined by the Rome Statute. The Security Council has the responsibility to prevent such crimes.

As the High Commissioner said, there have never been more refugees in the world than in 2017 — more than 66 million people in total, more than 10 million of whom are stateless. I should like to address a number of situations he addressed that are of particular concern to us.

First, I would like to express our deep concern about the humanitarian situation of the refugees, mostly Rohingya, who have fled and continue to flee Burma. France has tirelessly condemned the attacks perpetrated since 25 August against the civilian population in Rakhine state. The ethnic cleansing has already forced more than 600,000 people — the majority of whom are women and children — to cross the border in the hope of surviving, without counting the internally displaced, whose numbers we do not know.

We have three specific priorities for resolving this crisis. They have been relayed and stressed to the Burmese authorities, notably at the Security Council's Arria Formula meeting that France organized with the United Kingdom, with the participation of Mr. Kofi Annan, during its presidency last month. The High Commissioner spoke at that meeting. In the short term, the military operations of the Burmese army must stop, and safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian aid must be restored in order to allow the safe, voluntary and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees to their country. The key to a solution lies in compliance with those three requirements.

I wish to reaffirm France's support for Bangladesh, which has opened its borders and welcomed hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees. The international community must continue to support Bangladesh in its efforts. At the donors' conference in Geneva on 23 October, France contributed almost €3 million. I would also like to stress the need for the dialogue between Burma and Bangladesh on the return of refugees to include UNHCR. That is a critical point on which I must insist, in support of the statement just made in that regard by Mr. Grandi.

Finally, the safe, voluntary and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees will ultimately depend on the effective consideration of the root causes of the crisis, and particularly the question of citizenship and equal rights for all persons belonging to the Rohingya community. France will remain fully engaged, together with the United Kingdom and its partners, in developing a strong and united Council response. It is time to translate our words into action, and we must do so urgently in response to the ethnic cleansing taking place before our very eyes.

In Africa, the situation in the Central African Republic is particularly worrisome, with the number of Central African refugees in neighbouring countries similar to the level we experienced at the height of the crisis in 2013. This situation is the consequence of the deterioration of the security situation that has been observed for several months in the east and north-west of the country, owing to the growing number of clashes between armed groups, whose sole purpose is to monopolize territories and resources and discredit the Central African authorities and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

This spiral must be interrupted and a positive dynamic revived, as the Secretary-General said during his recent visit to the Central African Republic. In that context, the forthcoming renewal of the MINUSCA mandate should allow us to increase the Mission's human resources and refocus its action on the priorities of protecting civilians, supporting the political process and humanitarian access.

Finally, I would like to return to the humanitarian situation in Syria, which remains extremely worrying. More than 11 million Syrians have been uprooted by the conflict, while some 6.3 million are internally displaced and suffer limited access to humanitarian assistance. The plight of internally displaced persons in eastern Ghouta, Idlib governorate and around the berm is particularly tragic. In addition, 5 million refugees have taken refuge in Syria's neighbouring countries. On behalf of France, I again thank Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey for hosting a large majority of those refugees.

Hosting refugees is not only a moral duty, but also an obligation under our international commitments. In meeting these challenges, we have an imperative to provide legal and safe channels for those in need of protection, in particular by strengthening the fight against traffickers and smugglers. It is in that spirit that last month France established the first protection missions for the resettlement of refugees in Europe in the framework of the Central Mediterranean action plan adopted in August with our partners.

Hosting refugees is also important in terms of solidarity with countries neighbouring conflict zones, which are on the front lines of these large-scale displacements — whether they are the neighbouring States of Syria, the countries of the Lake Chad basin or the Horn of Africa, or more recently, Bangladesh. In order to support their efforts, France has decided to increase its financial aid to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration by €10 million in support of such States in the Middle East and Africa. This solidarity also requires the sharing of responsibilities. That is why France has made the commitment to resettle 10,000 refugees from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, the Niger and Chad by 2019.

As rightly pointed out by High Commissioner Grandi, only a comprehensive approach will deliver an effective and lasting response to the challenges posed by the increase in forced displacement. The Security Council has a particular responsibility to contribute to identifying and implementing this new approach. Mr. Grandi may rest assured of France's steadfast commitment to that end at his side.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): We would like to thank Mr. Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for his briefing. It is good to have him here with us this morning. The United States remains steadfast in our support for the High Commissioner's mandate and for the work of his Office, which is more critical now than ever.

With new and protracted crises leaving over 65 million people forcibly displaced worldwide — over 22 million of whom are considered refugees — the stakes of this global challenge could not be higher or more evident. The Council has a vital role to play in curtailing the underlying political dysfunction and conflict that give rise to and prolong mass displacement and humanitarian need.

When we act on our mandate and follow through consistently, we can be successful. It is therefore imperative that we do more to act on our mandate and work to prevent and mitigate conflicts, especially by following through on the decisions we make in this Chamber. As we do so, it is important to have briefings like today's from the High Commissioner in order to remind us of the critical nature, real-world impact and human dimension of crises occurring worldwide. As described to us today by the High Commissioner, several situations globally highlight the importance of more robust action to solve these problems.

In Burma, more than 603,000 Rohingya have fled into neighbouring Bangladesh only since late August to escape escalating insecurity and alleged human rights abuses by security forces. An unknown but likely significant number of Rohingya are internally displaced within Burma after their villages were burned or they were forced out of their homes. While reported violence has lessened, continued insecurity and fear of further violence threaten to drive more Rohingya into neighboring countries.

The Government of Bangladesh has stepped up impressively, taking in the displaced and providing for their safe temporary care, but undeniably this is a burden on Bangladesh's resources and, of course, many Rohingya simply want to be able to return safely to their rightful homes in Burma. We welcome Burmese State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi's commitment that refugees will be able to return home. We encourage the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh to work closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) throughout this process and to allow it and other relief organizations full access to displaced populations across the country.

In South Sudan, we can see the human cost of a Government's failure to uphold its most basic obligations to its citizens. More than 2 million South Sudanese have fled to Uganda, the Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and other countries. Refugees have found safety and protection in those neighbouring countries, but the resources of host communities and Governments are limited. Inside South Sudan, another 1.9 million people are displaced, facing ongoing food insecurity and threat of famine.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, nearly 4 million people are now internally displaced. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo live in protracted displacement due to continuing conflict, limited access to livelihoods and basic services, and the absence of political will on the part of the Government to address conflict and underdevelopment, thereby deterring the investments needed to pave the way for durable solutions. The devastating impact of renewed and intensifying conflicts in the Kasaï region there have led to the displacement of nearly 1.3 million people over the past

year, both within the Democratic Republic of the Congo and into neighbouring countries.

As the civil war in Syria continues, an estimated 13.5 million people remain in dire need inside Syria alone, including 6.3 million IDPs and another 5.3 million refugees. These numbers are simply staggering, amounting to half of Syria's population before the civil war began. In Syria, the Al-Assad regime has used chemical weapons against civilian populations and bombed entire cities into ruins, in explicit and irrefutable contravention of international law. Adding to this, the Syrian regime's obscene refusal to allow humanitarian organizations to access vulnerable populations, its continued practice of redirecting humanitarian assistance for political purposes, and its military tactics further compound suffering. Those who make it out alive have fled, largely to neighbouring countries like Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, which are playing an indispensable role in providing safety and support to these refugees in the midst of the unimaginable and indescribable conditions caused by both the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham (ISIS) and the Al-Assad regime.

The spread of violent extremism over the past decade has also created a new wave of suffering and displacement, characterized by unthinkable violence and inhumanity. Boko Haram, for example, has continued to drive the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria and the Lake Chad basin to devastating proportions, while recent gains against Boko Haram and ISIS in West Africa have led to nearly 1.3 million persons returning to areas of origin; nearly 2 million still remain internally displaced or are refugees in neighbouring countries.

Ultimately, in each of these situations and in others around the world, a sustainable resolution to the underlying political conflict and development are essential to ending the global refugee crisis. The Council must therefore take action towards these ends. We also have a duty to press Member States to step up and ensure that UNHCR is fully resourced for delivering on the growing demands it faces. Given the magnitude of this global crisis, the UNHCR 2018 budget and the wider global humanitarian appeals have once again climbed above last year's figure to historic highs, reflecting the extraordinary humanitarian needs of forcibly displaced people all over the world. The United States provided over $8 billion in humanitarian aid in the fiscal year 2017 — representing a historic high — including nearly $1.5 billion to UNHCR. We must all follow through on our commitments to increase contributions to humanitarian appeals and promote durable solutions for the displaced. We all too often throw around numbers — 20 million, 4 million, 600,000 — to describe people in a way that is easier to handle. We talk about numbers instead of actually talking about real people.

However, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo last week, Ambassador Haley met with women in camps who described living in absolute fear — fear that if they left the camp, they would be raped, and fear that if their children left the camp, they would be abducted. No person should have to live like that. No individual should have to experience what those individuals experience each and every day.

But in the photos from Ambassador Haley's trip of those same camps, there are children smiling and waving, showing the innocent hope and joy that they still have while living in a world where horrible things are happening all around them. The sad reality is that without action by their Government and the engagement of the international community, they will likely end up like their parents, with their fathers pulled off to war and their mothers living in constant fear.

However, we can change that. If those children can have hope in such a dire situation, so should we. We must translate that hope into concrete action to change their lives for the better. We owe it to them and to children all over the world to take our mandate as a Council seriously and to hold those Governments accountable when they fail to protect their people. Only then can we do our part to create a future where they can live, live out their dreams and fulfil their potential. We want those children to know that we hear their voices, we are here for them and we will act for them.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We join others in wishing the Italian presidency every success, and we also extend our gratitude to the French delegation.

We welcome the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and thank him for his briefing.

Assistance to refugees and stateless persons is today a key component of the comprehensive efforts aimed at maintaining international stability. We commend the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to boost the effectiveness of the international protection regime. We

note the leading role of UNHCR in drafting a global compact on refugees and introducing a corresponding set of measures. We believe that if the efforts of the international community are combined, those measures will significantly improve the situation of refugees.

The current situation of refugees is largely a consequence of interference in the internal affairs of States, primarily in the Middle East and North Africa. We believe that those who have taken an active part in such interference bear the primary responsibility for delivering assistance to the victims of those policies, namely, refugees and forced migrants. What will most help to alleviate the suffering of refugees is the establishment of lasting peace in Syria, Libya and other conflict-ridden countries. It is also important to consistently fight terrorism. Assistance to host countries and countries of origin is key, including to create the conditions necessary for the voluntary return of refugees and ensuring their reintegration into society.

Our hope is that the experience and professionalism of UNHCR will allow us to achieve swift progress in addressing the situation of refugees from Myanmar, who, thanks to the consistent and steadfast efforts of Bangladesh, have been greeted with a warm reception.

The urgent challenge still remains to prevent refugees from being subject to political manipulation by forces inciting ethnic and religious enmity. It is also important to pursue efforts to prevent terrorists from infiltrating among refugees, and avoid the use of refugee camps for the recruitment and training of militants.

Our country strives to facilitate international efforts to assist refugees. We are a donor to UNHCR, and we host and provide arrangements on our territory for a significant number of refugees and forced migrants from various countries. We also provide substantial amounts of bilateral and multilateral humanitarian assistance. We trust that UNHCR will actively facilitate that process by taking measures to create suitable conditions for the return of refugees to their homes in Syria.

Russian territory is currently hosting more than 1 million Ukrainians fleeing conflict zones, to whom we are providing a decent life. We are in constant contact with UNHCR on that issue. On a regular basis, we send part of our voluntary donation to finance UNHCR operations in Ukraine, and we provide significant amounts of humanitarian assistance to victims in south-eastern Ukraine. We thank the Office for its efforts to draw the attention of the international community to this issue, and we call for ongoing, objective coverage of the humanitarian consequences of the Ukrainian crisis to facilitate the reintegration of returning refugees and internally displaced persons to south-eastern Ukraine.

In conclusion, I reaffirm our high praise for the activities of UNHCR, which frequently acts as a lifeline for millions of people who are forced to flee their homes.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China condemns the terrorist attack that took place in New York and expresses its condolences to the victims.

We appreciate the efforts of the French presidency and congratulates Italy on its assumption of the presidency.

China thanks Italy for convening today's meeting and welcomes the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Mr. Vincenzo Amendola, who has come to New York to preside over this meeting. We also thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, for his briefing.

The situation of refugees around the world continues to deteriorate. Armed conflicts and natural disasters have resulted in an increase in the number of internally displaced persons. Refugee issues are complex and have many underlying causes, and have become protracted and hybrid in nature. Factors such as terrorism, turbulent regional situations and mixed flows of refugees and migrants have added to the difficulty of providing refugees with protection.

Over the past year, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), under the leadership of High Commissioner Grandi, has actively pushed for internal reforms, intensifying its coordination efforts and improving its emergency response capacity, thereby making significant contributions to protecting the welfare of refugees and responding to refugee crises. China appreciates all those efforts and supports the Office in maintaining its positive role in that regard.

Faced with the complex refugee situation and related challenges, the international community should continue to work within the framework of international law, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and on the basis of mutual respect. Enhanced international cooperation will create synergy in addressing the global refugee

problem. The issue requires tackling both the symptoms and root causes by increasing support and assistance to host countries and communities, and eliminating discrimination against and prejudice towards refugees. We must also focus on the root causes that give rise to refugees by peacefully settling disputes through dialogue, increasing development aid to countries in need of assistance, creating the necessary conditions for the return of refugees to their homes, and promoting ongoing development in their countries of origin.

In handling matters related to refugees, the international community should uphold the principles of objectivity and neutrality, avoid interference in the internal affairs of the countries in question and prevent the politicization and abuses of international refugee protection mechanisms.

China has long cooperated with UNHCR. In June, High Commissioner Grandi made a successful visit to China, where both sides achieved firm consensus on deepening our ties of cooperation. Pursuant to the outcomes reached at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in May, China will work with the relevant international organizations in a joint push to implement a tranche of international cooperation projects for countries along the Belt and Road, including providing food, tents, prefab buildings and other refugee relief items to those countries; establishing refugee scholarships; and financing the participation of refugee athletes in international and regional competitions.

During the leaders' round of the Forum, the Ministry of Commerce of China also signed a cooperation agreement with UNHCR, whereby it pledged $8 million to the Office as an appropriation to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation. China will earnestly honour and effectively implement the aforementioned assistance initiatives. China is ready to work with all parties in actively participating in the intergovernmental negotiations on a global compact on refugees, to be launched next year, so as to contribute to the improvement in the global governance of refugees.

The problem in Rakhine state of Myanmar involves complex historical, ethnic and religious factors. Many differences and contradictions have been brewing for a long time. The Government of Myanmar is now working actively to ease the tensions in Rakhine state, and the situation there is now moving towards stability. Myanmar and Bangladesh are now seeking a settlement of the problem of the Rakhine state through bilateral negotiations and consultations. The United Nations and the international community should remain patient and provide constructive help and cooperation to Myanmar by working together for an appropriate solution to the problem.

Mr. Vitrenko (Ukraine): Since this is our first public meeting under the presidency of Italy, Mr. President, I would like to congratulate your country on assuming this post and wish you every success in steering the Council's work during this month.

I thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for his comprehensive overview of the situation with refugees globally and for outlining the main challenges, operational and policy priorities of his Office, with prevention featuring prominently among them. We commend the endeavours of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to tackle problems that refugees are facing in different parts of the world. Its efforts are indispensable in addressing and solving related humanitarian crises that, unfortunately, are still a sad reality in the twenty-first century.

Ukraine commends the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner in this field, in particular the adoption of its five strategic directions for 2017-2021, which will guide the Office's engagement with all people of concern. Given the scale of conflicts on the global map and the constantly growing number of affected persons, the process of reforming UNHCR and its capabilities to respond to new challenges is very welcome. The persistent work to involve international development actors in the search for long-term solutions to humanitarian crises is noteworthy. We commend and encourage further progress on this track.

The historical commitments made by Member States in September 2016, here in New York, through the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants should lead to the successful elaboration of the global compact for refugees so as to address forced displacement situations more comprehensively and provide all affected people with better protection. Ukraine welcomes UNHCR's significant efforts and engagement to protect and assist internally displaced persons throughout the world, who represent a major percentage of persons of concern to UNHCR under its mandate.

We welcome the High Commissioner's visit to Ukraine last year, which generated a positive momentum in response to the situation of internally displaced persons in my country. As a result of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, there are 1.7 million internally displaced persons in my country. All these persons were forced to leave their homes in Crimea and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions following the military occupation of these territories by the Russian Federation, which, as we just heard, presents itself as a humanitarian donor while in fact it has been a donor of heavy weaponry, mercenaries and regular troops in the Donbas.

Population displacement on this scale on the European continent is not something to be overlooked, brushed aside or glossed over, and those people deserve to be mentioned, just as the High Commissioner rightly did, along with refugees and internally displaced persons in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, Myanmar and other countries. In that light, we thank UNHCR and its international partners, including individual Member States, for the valuable assistance provided in response to the displacement crisis in Ukraine. For our part, we will continue to actively support the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including those in my country.

Mr. Sadykov (Kazakhstan): I thank the Italian presidency for highlighting the plight of refugees and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi for his comprehensive briefing.

In the aftermath of the Second World War, most countries agreed to protect refugees under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. However, this vision of a better world has eroded with the unfolding of a global unprecedented humanitarian crisis. We therefore need collective solutions, visionary leadership and global cooperation on a massive scale. Primary among these are the ending of conflicts, persecution, terrorism and violent extremism that force people to flee; the implementation of peace agreements; upholding ceasefires, and allowing humanitarian access.

The Astana platform supporting the Geneva process to mitigate the situation in Syria is a good illustration. The protection of civilians should be the key responsibility of Member States which in conflict areas must be helped with capacity-building in the rule of law, good governance, security sector reforms, promoting human rights and investing in development to create political, economic and social stability.

It is therefore obvious that the protection of civilians should be an integral element of all multidimensional peacekeeping operations and political mission mandates. In addition, protection experts must be strategically positioned in all mission units and other mechanisms, working closely with United Nations country teams and the Governments of host countries, as well as with police- and troop-contributing countries. Training must be provided on the protection of refugees, women and children. Care must be taken to see that refugees in camps have adequate food and water and are not subject to forced labour, sexual abuse and exploitation.

Understanding the root causes of displacement is necessary to long-term development and to strengthening the security-development nexus by investing in poverty reduction, education, job creation and basic services. Protection of civilians criteria must also be part of relevant sanction committees, and perpetrators must be brought to justice.

We call upon all Member States to carry out all measures related to counter-terrorism, in full compliance with international law. It is equally critical to harmonize legislation and amend criminal codes accordingly. Additionally, the fight against terrorism must not lead to the killing of civilians or their expulsion, causing them to flee to other countries. Hospitals, ambulances, schools and critical energy, transport and communications infrastructure need to be protected to serve local populations. Intensive programmes should be initiated to enable refugees and internally displaced persons to return home.

Addressing the Security Council last month, Secretary-General Guterres, quoting World Food Programme statistics, indicated that "a 1 per cent increase in food insecurity leads to a 2 per cent increase in refugees" (*S/PV.8069, p. 4*). Conflict in one country places demands on its neighbours to provide food and basic services to refugees. That can lead to further instability, which affects the security of an entire region and beyond. Therefore, only a region and subregional approach would make concerted action across borders possible. The magnitude of the refugee crisis is so alarming that the international community has to step up to increase support for UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). A determined effort would enable the setting up of a strong refugee system

that offers asylum for legitimate claims and provides basic survival kits and supplements, even to families who host refugees. Nearly 84 per cent of refugees today are hosted by middle- and low-income countries. They need to be supported.

Likewise, we should open up safe routes for refugees and initiative resettlement programmes. Similarly, saving lives should be our key goal, so that no one dies crossing a border or fleeing in a boat. Together with investing in search and rescue operations and helping those in distress, all countries are expected to invesitgate and prosecute trafficking gangs that exploit refugees and migrants.

We also need to fight xenophobia, racism and, inter-ethnic tensions that lead to hostilities and senseless expulsions of people. Kazakhstan has lessons to share based on its experience of holding three annual conferences of traditional and religious leaders of all religions, and establishing an assembly of Kazakh people that includes all ethnic and religious denominations, particularly youth, in order to foster unity and social harmony.

Kazakhstan, together with its neighbours, is making every effort to develop and implement policies that ensure basic human rights throughout Central Asia. My country has a long record of excellent collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies, such as UNHCR and IOM, as well as with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and others. To coordinate regional and international efforts to deal with the influx to, from and within Central Asia, Kazakhstan, in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM, initiated in 2011 the regional consultative Almaty process in order to create mechanisms to monitor irregular migration and devise new, coherent, comprehensive and differentiated policies. That regional initiative presently includes seven member States and two observers from our part of the world. It will expand in geographic scope with the increasing flow of populations across the region.

Finally, Kazakhstan is strongly committed to reaching concrete outcomes on the issue of refugees with the United Nations and other Member States, based on fundamental principles of human dignity, justice and freedom.

Mr. Inchauste Jordán (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, Bolivia expresses its congratulations to the French delegation for the conduct and conclusion of a successful and productive month in the presidency of the Security Council. Similarly, we express our best wishes to the Italian delegation in the month of November and we appreciate its initiative to hold today's briefing about a very important topic that has not been discussed in the Council since 2009. We hope that henceforth the issue of refugees will be addressed more frequently, since it is a topic intrinsically linked to international peace and security. We also appreciate the briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi.

According to data from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and as Mr. Grandi mentioned, at the end of 2016, as a result of war, persecution, armed conflicts and violence, there were close to 65 million people forcedly displaced throughout the world, of more than 22 million are refugees, 17 million of whom are under the mandate of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and more than 5 million of whom were registered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien has said that we are facing the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world since the Second World War.

The scourge of war and armed conflics forces thousands of people to leave their countries of origin and their homes in the hope of finding more favourable security conditions. They have to abandon everything that they know — their families, friends, homes and everything they have built with their work throughout their lives. However, their martyrdom does not end there. Once they leave their homes, the situation they experience, if they survive, is precarious, since they are often categorized as a problem or a burden and questioned about their motivations. Sometimes they are even placed in camps and forced to stay there.

Currently, as the High Commissioner mentioned, one of the most complicated situations involves the more than half a million Rohingya people who had to leave to their homes and seek refuge in Bangladesh. We commend and highlight the willingness shown by the Government of Bangladesh, which has taken in thousands of refugees. In that context, we also commend all those countries that receive with open arms all the people who are fleeing the scourge of war, violence and armed conflict.

Likewise, many of the refugees are from Syria. After years of war and conflict, many have lost hope and do not believe they will return to their country. Many of them choose the European continent to start from scratch. They are forced to do so in precarious conditions, moving with what they can carry in a state of poverty. Many of them have difficulties in getting a decent job, both because of their refugee status and because of cultural or linguistic barriers, so that even children have had to leave school to work and help their families.

In order to put an end to this and other crises, it is necessary to address the root causes of war, armed conflicts, terrorism and the threat of violence, which in many cases are the result of interventionist and regime-change policies. They are changes that mostly do not translate into peaceful or democratic transitions. In that connection, the responsibility of all of the States Members of the United Nations is first to recognize the historical debt owed to those countries and people who suffer because of actions often perpetrated through conflicts initiated, encouraged and led by certain military and economic Powers. That is why we believe that, by closing their borders, building walls, criminalizing migration and denying access to refugees, some countries promote xenophobia, discrimination and racism. Additionally, such policies serve to fuel the rhetoric of terrorist groups, which we are all trying to fight, including ,of course, intolerance of different religious beliefs.

In that connection, during the World Peoples' Conference, held in June under the theme "For a world without walls, towards universal citizenship", Bolivia proposed that we work together on the concept of universal citizenship, with the aim of decreasing, in addition to human trafficking, the barriers that prevent refugees from escaping war and armed conflicts.

We call on countries to reflect and to comply with the joint obligation of solidarity to receive refugees and offer them protection, as well as to help them look for ways to improve their self-sufficiency, expand their resettlement to third countries and create favourable conditions for their voluntary return. Initiatives such as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, a document that expresses the political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share that responsibility worldwide, establish the basis for a global compact that has the potential to generate tangible change with respect to how we address forced displacement.

We also emphasize that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol remain the fundamental pillars of the international refugee protection system. Although since 1951 the regime for the protection of refugees has been reinforced by the adoption of regional instruments across various continents, the protection regime is weakened by the lack implementation. As a result, the chances for establishing a system of mutual understanding and collaboration diminish.

In many cases, aid is scarce, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. For example, the levels of funding needed for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for its work in the Central African Republic and Burundi are funded at only 9 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. For South Sudan, and the neighbouring countries that host 2 million refugees from that country, the funding level is at only 31 per cent. Similarly, the resources available for Syria and neighbouring host countries have decreased with respect to last year's levels.

Global social and economic trends point to displacement continuing to increase over the next decade, while taking on new and different forms. The patterns of displacement will be affected by the increase in the world's population, which will increase from its current number of 7 billion inhabitants to more than 10 billion in 2100 — an increase that will occur mostly in Africa and Asia. In that regard, the needs of refugees will increase to an even greater level, thereby leading to complex situations in providing refugee camps with resources. Accordingly, the international community must therefore concretely deliver on its pledges to provide sustainable support for the countries receiving large flows of refugees.

Lastly, in order to achieve concrete solutions, States must work to ensure the voluntary and timely return of refugees, as well as their integration into societies undergoing long-term conflict situations. Likewise, solutions for refugees must be incorporated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by increasing commitments to provide resettlement, settlement locations and mobility for refugees, and actively involve them in seeking solutions. All that requires solidarity, cooperation and the sharing of

international responsibility. We must all shoulder the responsibility that we share with regard to this crisis.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I congratulate the delegation of France on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October. I wish you, Sir, and your delegation every success during your term of office, during which you can count on the support of the delegation of Uruguay.

I thank Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for his comprehensive briefing, in which he laid out a very timely and detailed account of the most urgent and difficult to manage situations. It is crucial that we be aware of the views of the High Commissioner when addressing many of the conflicts on the agenda of the Council. I agree with him that briefings such as this must take place at least once a year.

Unfortunately, the world is witnessing record numbers of refugees. The majority of the 65.6 million people who have been forcibly displaced throughout the world, including refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, fled their homes as a result of various conflicts. The statistic of 65.6 million people represents nearly 19 times the population of my country, and that number is only a point of reference. Beyond the statistics, which seem overwhelming, we should try to grasp the actual lives that lie behind those numbers. It is no coincidence that the countries that generate the highest number of refugees are on the agenda of the Security Council: Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Central African Republic, Burundi and Myanmar.

Accordingly, the direct relationship between conflicts and the number of refugees worldwide is indisputable. It is the responsibility of the entire international community, and especially that of the Security Council, to focus on preventing conflicts so as to avoid a continued increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons. Preventing conflicts and adopting policies aimed at achieving long-term stability will make possible halting the increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons.

At the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, held during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly in New York last year, States Members of the United Nations unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. That historic political Declaration is aimed at improving the way in which the international community addresses large movements of refugees and migrants, including protracted situations involving refugees. We commend the work of the international community and, at the same time, we would like to highlight aspects of Uruguayan policy pertaining to refugees.

Uruguay recognized the right to asylum and the rights of refugees through the adoption of its law 18-76, of 19 December 2006. All persons in Uruguay have the right to seek refuge on our national territory to preserve their life, physical, moral and intellectual well-being, freedom and security. Likewise, Uruguay espouses two fundamental principles with regard to refugees, namely, the principle of non-refoulement at the border and confidentiality. The first principle assures that during any immigration control entry into Uruguay shall not be denied to any individual expressing their intention to seek refuge. That provision applies even to cases in which the applicant lacks the documentation required under migratory law or produces obviously fraudulent or falsified documentation. Concerning confidentiality, no information regarding asylum seekers or refugees shall be made publicly available.

Pending the completion of the petition process, every asylum seeker in Uruguay is entitled to the issuance of a temporary identity document that bears similar features as those issued to legal residents, thereby facilitating their access to basic health services, education and legal employment. Once legal refugee status has been granted, that document is subsequently replaced by the same form of identification issued to residents.

Rather than continuing to detail out national refugee policies, we believe that a positive approach in the area of refugees would set the international community upon the right path to facing that global challenge. As set forth in the New York Declaration, protecting those who are forced to flee and the obligation to support countries and communities that host them are shared international responsibilities that must be assumed in a more equitable and predictable manner. We must address the root causes of forced displacement, support host communities and actively promote sustainable solutions for refugees, particularly when refugee status becomes protracted. For the short- and medium-term, High Commissioner Grandi can count on Uruguay's commitment to participating actively and constructively in developing the global compact on refugees.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): First of all, I would like to join others in congratulating Italy on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. It has our full support.

I would also like to express my sympathies to the victims of the attack in lower Manhattan. It is a stark reminder that terrorist attacks can happen anywhere and against anybody.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for his comprehensive briefing.

The role of the Security Council is to work to achieve peace and security in the world, but we are continually reminded that humanitarian issues, including the refugee issue, need to occupy a large portion of the Council's attention. As Mr. Grandi's briefing illustrated, we are currently seeing an increase in the severity of the humanitarian crisis. There is a greater need for a strengthened response to refugees. As of October, Japan has contributed approximately $150 million to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which includes emergency-grant aid to Myanmar and Bangladesh, as well as to the Middle East and Africa.

As for the humanitarian crisis in Syria, although the Security Council has been tackling the situation in that country for six years, there has been no substantial improvement. Considering the critical situation of refugees from Syria, Japan has delivered assistance to host communities through the United Nations. Japan has also accepted Syrian students, helping them to continue their studies in Japan. We believe such educational opportunities will not only serve as a complementary pathway for the vulnerable populations, but will also contribute to building the capacity of today's youth, who will be rebuilding Syria tomorrow. Japan places importance on activities to ease the pain suffered by the Syrian people due to the long-lasting conflict and to build resilience in their communities.

The situation of refugees and displaced people in Myanmar and Bangladesh is a serious concern for the international community. To address the situation, Japan increased its emergency grand aid to $4 million in September, in addition to the $12 million contribution already made earlier this year through international organizations, including UNHCR, which has been assisting those affected by the current situation.

Japan places importance on UNHCR's efforts to apply the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. The Framework will be an important element of the global compact on refugees, which will be adopted next year. We see the Framework as an initiative that in line with the humanitarian-development nexus, which Japan firmly supports. Based on that idea, Japan carried out projects in the areas of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation in collaboration with various actors, including UNHCR, in places such as Uganda, Iraq and Turkey. At the same time, we also pay further attention to the Framework from the view point of adding another important element to the humanitarian-development nexus: peace, something on which Japan places increasing importance. The role of the Security Council, together with the Peacebuilding Commission, is crucial to supporting the political process for peace and to complete this nexus.

Lasting solutions for the refugee issue cannot be achieved solely through emergency humanitarian assistance. Supporting the self-reliance of refugees is necessary for the day when, through the political process, the time comes for them to repatriate or resettle. When a humanitarian crisis ends and refugees return to their home countries, providing seamless assistance — such as peacebuilding for reconstruction and stabilization, poverty reduction and economic development for stabilization and prevention of the recurrence of conflict — is essential.

Japan will continue to work within and outside the Security Council to secure peace and prevent the recurrence of conflict, which is a major cause of refugees. At the same time, Japan intends to continue its assistance in the areas of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation to ensure effective collaboration in those areas. Japan will learn from its experience and hopes to work with the international community, especially through closer cooperation with UNHCR, for the delivery of effective assistance.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate Italy on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I wish Italy every success.

I would also like to thank Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for his comprehensive briefing to the Council. I also like take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation

for the tireless efforts that he is exerting to improve the lives of millions of refugees around the world.

Forced displacement has become a global phenomenon. Millions of people move every year, fleeing armed conflict, oppression, violence, terrorism, extreme poverty, food insecurity or the negative impact of climate change, natural disasters or other factors. Anyone following this situation today, in particular as it relates to the Middle East and Africa — to which Egypt belongs — can easily deduce that armed conflicts, oppression and violence, including terrorism, are among the main reasons that have led to increased flows of refugees throughout the world during the past few years. In the current year alone, more than 2 million refugees left their homes because of protracted crises.

The severe humanitarian crisis in Myanmar has led to the displacement of more than 600,000 Muslims, who are fleeing the systemic violence practiced against them. The Syrian crisis also remains the largest humanitarian crisis in terms of the resulting displacement of civilians. In the same vein, we cannot forget the protracted, decades-long suffering of millions of Palestinians who are still waiting for a just settlement that fulfils their legitimate aspirations for a better life.

Egypt believes it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive approach in addressing the root causes of displacement. That would include measures in the economic, political, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres. We must emphasize the development dimension and must open up new channels for accepting refugees. Security solutions and the closing of borders will not serve any interest, and they violate the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

The greatest positive contribution from the United Nations is in the area of the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict prevention, and in seeking lasting political solutions through preventative diplomacy. In that connection, the Security Council must work to prevent renewed conflicts and to fulfil its duties in the area of civilian protection and armed conflicts. Attention should be given to vulnerable segments of the population, such as women and children. The Council must adopt long-term strategies to build peace in affected countries. One of the main duties of the High Commissioner for Refugees in post-conflict situations is to contribute to efforts aimed at the safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees, in coordination with the relevant States.

In conclusion, we would like to point out that, based on its firm belief in the importance of joint work and international cooperation to address the root causes of crises, Egypt is shouldering the burdens of hosting large numbers of refugees of varous nationalities. Many of them enjoy equal status with Egyptians and are enjoying access to education, health, housing, commodities and subsidies. We welcome all ongoing efforts to develop the global compact on refugees in a manner that contributes to sharing the responsibilities and developing a unified vision and a strong position to provide a dignified life to refugees and to respect their rights and their human dignity.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): The Senegalese delegation would like to begin, Mr. President, by associating itself with the condolences you expressed, Sir, in connection with the victims of the terrorist attack that befell the American people, as well as the Argentine and Belgian people.

On the occasion of this first public meeting of the month, my delegation would like to congratulate the Italian delegation on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council, as well as to commend you, Under-Secretary Amendola, for personally presiding today. I also commend the French delegation for its outstanding conduct of our work during the month of October.

My delegation welcomes the initiative of the Italian presidency of devoting this meeting to the critical problem of refugees and internally displaced persons, particularly in situations of conflict — an issue that requires the urgent, decisive and coordinated action of the international community for a lasting settlement.

Additionally, I would like to thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, for his comprehensive briefing on the situation of refugees worldwide, which shed light on our discussions, by forging a clear link and indicating the desired complementarity between the role of the High Commissioner and that of the Security Council. That is why the Senegalese delegation echoes the call made by the initial speakers to increasing the dialogue between them.

The unacceptably high number of 65.6 million uprooted people in the world in 2016 is of particular concern, especially since almost all of those cases are due to conflict. The Council has the primary responsibility to resolve this situation if it cannot prevent it. Considering

that every minute 20 people — primarily women and children — are internally displaced or become refugees, how many thousands of lives, especially of women and children, will plunge into uncertainty by the time this morning's briefing ends?

That is why, in our view, at a time when humankind has more resources and capacities than ever before for every individual to live in dignity, it is regrettable that the international community is still searching for solutions and financing to resolve primarily man-made crises that could have been avoided. That is why Senegal keeps affirming that in situations of conflict, it is the responsibility of all parties to scrupulously respect international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law by providing protection and assistance to civilians first. The existing normative framework obligates the parties to a conflict and other stakeholders not to displace civilian populations and to take measures to prevent and manage possible movements.

And when national Governments cannot or will not assume responsibility for protecting internally displaced persons and refugees, international actors must act, using a two-pronged approach of encouraging States and other entities to respect their obligation to protect those populations under international law while, at the same time, supporting the development of local and national capacities to fulfil those responsibilities.

My delegation believes that the Security Council can, and must, make better use of all the means at its disposal to help the parties involved to assume their obligations to refugees and internally displaced persons. For example, the Council's aide-mémoire for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict suggests that members of the Council adopt certain initiatives with regard to forced displacement.

Similarly, international action must be strengthened to better support those populations and their host countries and communities. Indeed, the burden is increasingly heavy for host and transit countries, which, for the most part, are developing or low-income countries.

I would also like to stress the importance of partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, if we are to improve our care as it relates to reception, integration, provision of basic services, as well as management of statelessness. On that point, I would like to highlight one of the firm recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Statelessness in West Africa, held in February 2015. It suggests that nationality that is determined at the time of the refugees' arrival is a valid presumption that can be challenged only by the State of origin on the basis of hard evidence that the State itself would need to furnish. The 10 million stateless persons reported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2016 attest to the vulnerability of refugees to losing their identity, especially when their exile is protracted and the administration of their country of origin is hobbled by serious dysfunction.

Addressing the problem of refugees and displaced persons also requires strong regional partnerships. In that regard, my delegation would like to recall the contribution of Africa in managing that phenomenon — particularly as evidenced by the adoption of the African Union Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. We must note that the African continent itself hosts 30 per cent of the 65 million refugees and displaced persons.

To ensure better protection for internally displaced persons and refugees and, above all, in order to mitigate that phenomenon as much as possible, Senegal would like to renew its call for better conflict prevention based on reliable and rigorous warning systems, as well as on the need for open cooperation with all the relevant stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations.

It is in this spirit that, in referring to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, we wish to reaffirm Senegal's commitment to achieving the goals set by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. Accordingly, we call on the international community to redouble efforts to ensure the adoption of the global compact on refugees in 2018, as it is clear that conflict resolution and prevention requires genuine political will if we are to bring about a lasting settlement to the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons, including voluntary return in conditions of safety, dignity and respect for their rights.

Bearing in mind the importance of the post-conflict phase in the resurgence of crises, it seems appropriate to take into account the systematic promotion and protection of the human rights of refugees and

internally displaced persons in efforts to consolidate and sustain peace.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach that duly takes into account the political, economic, social, environmental and legal dimensions of the protection of civilians and stresses a preventive and proactive approach.

In addition to bolstering efforts to find political solutions to conflicts, it is also necessary to support countries in conflict in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those linked to the problem of forced displacement, as well as to foster a culture of justice and peace by boosting women's participation in the resolution of conflicts and promoting peaceful and prosperous societies.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Coooperation of Italy.

First of all, I would like to thank High Commissioner Filippo Grandi for his comprehensive and outstanding remarks and for the work carried out on the ground by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assist all those in need of international protection, including the victims of trafficking.

Allow me also to thank all of the members of the Security Council for their insightful contributions on an issue that deserves an urgent, coherent and collective response, as well as preventive action whenever possible. We cannot close our eyes in the face of human suffering. We cannot hide its tragic consequences for future generations. Therefore, today we make a call for action.

I think that regular briefings on this matter are more than welcome. Of course, Italy will continue to play its part, and the refugee agency can count on Italy's full support. From Myanmar to Libya, and from Somalia to Jordan and Yemen, Italy will work side by side with the agency to ensure protection and assistance for civilian populations, in particular the most vulnerable segments and those who deserve special protection.

We are aware of the increasing need for financial resources in order to operate in multiple crisis scenarios, which is why we have decided to further increase our financial support and plan to remain one of the agency's main donors. In addition to our annual voluntary contribution to the regular budget so far, we have already approved additional emergency humanitarian projects. Further initiatives will be implemented by the end of the year. The dramatic figures provided by the High Commissioner and the many critical situations he addressed in his briefing clearly show that we are facing one of the most serious challenges to international stability, and especially to respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, as well as international humanitarian law.

We must shift the focus on human mobility from an emergency approach to an encompassing and long-term one. We need to enhance our capacity to tackle the root causes of crises and give hope and dignity to the most vulnerable segments of the civilian population, especially youth. Indeed, the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants has improved the way in which the international community has begun to look at and respond to such a large and disorderly movement of refugees and migrants. We need a joint response and strengthened cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination.

In our opinion, the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the global compact on refugees, to be adopted next year, should represent a step forward in preventing and eradicating the root causes of forced migration and refugees flows. We have shared our proposals, which are based on three main actions, namely, investing, protecting and valuing — investing in supporting countries of origin and transit, protecting refugees and the most vulnerable migrants and valuing the many positive aspects of migration flows.

Italy's priority is to promote two key principles. The first one is partnership among countries of origin, transit and destination of flows. There is growing evidence of the need to collaborate on migration, not just to fight trafficking in human beings and criminal networks associated with migratory movements, but also to deal with the root causes of migration. The second key principle, which I already mentioned, is shared responsibility, both in managing the migratory flows and in protecting migrants and refugees, especially the most vulnerable ones, such as women, children and people with disabilities.

With particular reference to the global compact on refugees, increasing resettlement and complementary pathways for admission are essential to cope with the current large-scale influx of refugees from crisis

areas such as Syria, Libya, South Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan and Myanmar.

In Libya, it is critical to improve access to protection and support for asylum-seekers, refugees and internally displaced people and vulnerable migrants, in the light of the recent drastic decrease in sea arrivals in Italy from Libya, on one hand, and the potential increase in the number of those remaining in Libya in unsafe and precarious conditions, on the other. Scaling up the presence of the refugee agency in Libya is important, as the High Commissioner mentioned, for the protection of human rights in refugee camps.

The Security Council can play an important role in preventing and halting the refugee crisis by promoting and encouraging the prevention and resolution of conflicts, which are the main causes of large-scale movements of displaced people. In that context, I would like to express once again Italy's support for the Secretary-General's peace continuum approach — from prevention to peacekeeping, from post-conflict recovery to inclusive national reconciliation and sustainable development processes. The Security Council can play its role, including when renewing or drafting peacekeeping missions' mandates. Indeed, as the High Commissioner highlighted, peacekeeping can be a fundamental and extraordinary tool to protect refugees and migrants and to facilitate their relocation.

Most important, the Council needs to act with resolve and unity in order to put an end to the protracted crises and conflicts that force people to flee. I have mentioned all such crises and protracted conflicts. We, as members of the Security Council, have the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. We must therefore meet the expectations of the millions of people who are counting on us to restore and build peace.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The representative of the Russian Federation has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): As I noted during my statement, there are more than 1 million Ukrainians in Russia who fled the area of conflict, as well as an equal number of labour migrants from that country. Therefore, in spite of the unrestrained anti-Russian propaganda from Kyiv, those citizens have taken refuge in Russia to flee war or to resolve their socioeconomic issues. In our view, that is the real cost of the mantras of Russian aggression that we, unfortunately, heard voiced today.

The President: I now give the floor to High Commissioner Grandi to respond to the comments made.

Mr. Grandi: I will be very brief, Mr. President, as you have already effectively summarized many of the themes that emerged from the discussion today.

I would like to thank all delegations, which unanimously expressed support for refugees and for the work of my organization, including, in some cases, with very specific examples of support. I would also like to thank the Security Counicl for once again recognizing that refugee problems and problems of forced displacement can be resolved only through political action. I would like to encourage all of the members of the Council to remain focused on such action so that, when I meet the Council again, there will perhaps be a smaller number than the 66 million I reported today.

I would like to reassure all members, many of whom have encouraged me and asked me to continue to improve the effectiveness of the work of my organization through internal reforms and participation in broader United Nations reforms led by the Secretary-General, that I can guarantee that that commitment to reform is very real and is already being enacted in practice.

As many said here today, the process leading to the establishment — hopefully next year — of a global compact of refugees, parallel to a global compact on orderly and safe migration, will be a further opportunity to improve the type of work that we do and the responses to the refugee crisis through what the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants last year termed the comprehensive refugee response framework.

As I reported yesterday to the General Assembly, which is more the forum for this type of discussion, we are conducting important applications of this framework in many countries hosting large numbers of refugees, such as Ethiopia, Uganda and many countries in Central America. What we learn from that application and what we are learning through informal consultations with Member States will be brought back to Members through a zero draft of a global compact early next year, for more formal consultations throughout the year in Geneva and eventually here in New York.

I will therefore ask the Council once again — and members have expressed that sentiment themselves — for

support for this important process, through which we really have an opportunity to expand the range of actors involved in refugee responses, especially development actors and the private sector, and to improve the effectiveness of those responses and give impetus to the drive to find solutions to the refugee problem.

I should like to stress that many Council members have raised, and rightly so, the gravity of the refugee crisis presently affecting Bangladesh, with the refugee flow from Myanmar. I also should like to join those who have thanked Bangladesh for keeping its borders open to receive more than 600,000 refugees in the space of a very short period of time — two months. We should not forget that Bangladesh is already hosting 200,000 to 300,000 refugees from previous influxes, so it will soon be hosting almost a million people in a very overcrowded part of the country, which I have recently visited.

We are, of course, engaged with other humanitarian and development actors in responding to the crisis in Bangladesh. I would like to reiterate that with respect to my request for support for our offer to Bangladesh and Myanmar to have a role in the discussion — leading, hopefully, to the voluntary and dignified return of refugees to Myanmar — that offer is put forward in a completely non-political spirit, as is always the case with our actions, in the spirit of being constructive, as mentioned by some delegations, so as to improve effectiveness when the return happens and to ensure that it is conducted on a voluntary basis and according to principle, and that it has international legitimacy. That is the role that my agency can play in that important development if and whenever it happens.

I would like to conclude once again by thanking Italy and the Council for having invited me to this meeting and thanking you in particular, Mr. Under-Secretary, for presiding over this meeting. I am very grateful for the fact that several members have invited me to return and brief the Council regularly. I remain available to do so any time the Council deems it necessary.

The President: I thank Mr. Grandi for the clarifications he has provided.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8084

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8084th meeting
Monday, 6 November 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Cardi	(Italy)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Temenov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skau
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Allen
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2017/865)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2017/865)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Central African Republic to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic; Mr. Bédializoun Moussa Nébié, Special Representative of the African Union to the Central African Republic; and Mr. Mauro Garofalo, Head of International Relations, Community of Sant'Egidio.

Mr. Nébié is joining us via video-teleconference from Bangui.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/865, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic.

I now give the floor to Mr. Onanga-Anyanga.

Mr. Onanga-Anyanga (*spoke in French*): It is an honour for me to address the Security Council only a few days after the important visit of Secretary-General António Guterres to the Central African Republic. It was a visit rich in symbolism, which he undertook as a signal of the solidarity of the United Nations and the international community with the Government and the people of the Central African Republic so as to ensure that the Central African Republic will remain on the busy international agenda.

I am pleased to take part in this meeting of the Security Council along with other key partners of the Central African Republic and the United Nations, as you noted earlier, Mr. President. This reflects the rich and indispensable collaboration among us.

As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2017/865), this year has been marked by a great many serious incidents. Many more Central Africans have lost their lives. As the deteriorating security situation has not allowed for the sustainable return of those affected since the beginning of the crisis, the country now has nearly 600,000 internally displaced persons and half a million refugees in neighbouring countries. Their fate and the volatility of the security situation have further overshadowed an already disastrous humanitarian environment.

But I must also deplore the violent deaths of many humanitarian workers — 13 in total, the latest of which occurred yesterday — making the Central African Republic the most dangerous country for humanitarian action. It is in that context of unprecedented brutality, where there is often no peace to be preserved, that Blue Helmets are engaged and risk their lives every day. Twelve have succumbed since the beginning of this year, victims of violent targeted attacks, and several others have been wounded. Their hard work and their sacrifice alongside the Central African security forces have maintained a appreciable calm in the capital, Bangui, and elsewhere in the country.

But wherever the presence of the State is lacking, brutal attacks on civilians have persisted, particularly in the south-east and north-west of the country. Although limited in resources, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) increased the number of road patrols, as in Pombolo, to limit the risks to civilians. Redeployment in the affected areas is particularly slowed by the rainy season and acts of sabotage by armed groups.

In addition, with the onset of the dry season and transhumance, there is reason to fear a resurgence of clashes in the west of the country, particularly between local anti-balaka fighters and armed members of the Fulani community or armed elements affiliated with ex-Séléka. Despite the hard work on the ground and the negative impact of the misunderstanding that arises from excessive expectations of the mandate of MINUSCA and inevitably disappointed — although understandably so — the Mission continues to carry out its mandate with courage and determination. That was

recently the case in Bocaranga, where it rebuffed the armed group Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation, or in Bang against elements of the Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique.

The multiplication of hotbeds of tension and the exacerbation of armed violence over a large part of the vast Central African territory highlight the limits of the MINUSCA force, which the withdrawal of Ugandan forces under the mandate of the African Union has accentuated.

It was also in order to better understand the dynamics of the conflict that continues to rage in many parts of the territory, and to appreciate the complexity of our mission, on the eve of the renewal of the MINUSCA mandate, that the Secretary-General visited the Central African Republic from 24 to 27 October. In Bangui and Bangassou, he paid a well-deserved tribute to our troops, recognizing their immense sacrifice and invaluable contribution to the efforts to restore lasting peace in the Central African Republic. The Secretary-General and President Faustin-Archange Touadéra also honoured the thousands of Central Africans who have fallen victim to the armed conflicts that have affected the Central African Republic for decades.

When he left Bangui on 27 October, the Secretary-General noted that the Central African Republic was at a turning point in its history, the outcome of which will depend primarily on the Central Africans themselves. But to succeed, it is undeniable that, at this stage of the country's capabilities, the decisions of the Security Council and the continued support of the international community will continue to be critical to further progress.

That is why the Secretary-General has called for greater solidarity with the Central African Republic, stressing that it is a country that faces immense challenges but also has real opportunities to achieve a political resolution to the crisis and to launch an economic recovery to benefit as many citizens as possible. He pleaded for the strengthening of the legitimate institutions of the country and a substantial increase in the resources of MINUSCA to enable it to better protect the civilian population and support the expansion of State authority.

The Secretary-General also supported greater national responsibility for the security of the country, including through the gradual deployment of Central African armed forces battalions that were retrained by the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic, in line with paragraph 9 of resolution 2301 (2016). And in order for the peace dividend to be felt without further delay by the Central African people, the Secretary-General also advocated the effective implementation of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, both in the mobilization of the promised resources and in the carrying out, at the national level, of the selected programmes.

To succeed on all fronts, all actors must be committed to an inclusive political process under the auspices of the President of the Central African Republic. In that respect, the 17 July adoption in Libreville of the road map for peace and reconciliation in the Central African Republic, initiated by the African Union, offers real hope for a lasting exit to the crisis through the voices of dialogue. My brother Moussa Nébié, in Bangui, and I have been having daily discussions on that issue and we are ready to work hand in hand to ensure the success of that important initiative.

MINUSCA will fully support the efforts of the panel of facilitators of the African Initiative and the Government of the Central African Republic so as to ensure its success. Working together, we will also promote local dialogue aimed at achieving a sustainable reduction of violence, better humanitarian access and the return of local Government. Ensuring stability throughout the country will require strengthening the presence and capacity of State institutions at the local level, especially to support dialogue and reconciliation efforts.

I am pleased to report notable progress in the implementation of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan and the Framework for Mutual Engagement, which provide key strategic instruments for strengthening institutions and promoting the economic recovery of the country. But it is regrettable that more than 2 million people in the Central African Republic are in urgent need of food assistance. The humanitarian response plan was revised upwards in August to reflect increased needs, but has only been 34 per cent funded.

Communities devastated by violence often have to take refuge around places of worship, in hospitals and near MINUSCA camps. This forced displacement has created new enclaves in many localities in the east of the country. In Bangassou, Mbomou prefecture, some 1,500 displaced persons — primarily Muslims — found

shelter in the Catholic church premises under the protection of MINUSCA. In Bria, Kaga Bandoro and Bocaranga, thousands of displaced people are suffering the consequences of merciless clashes between anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka elements. The prospects for the return of displaced persons and refugees remain significantly reduced by persistent tensions.

(*spoke in English*)

The Secretary-General's request to increase MINUSCA force level by 900 troops is part of a comprehensive strategy to address the deteriorating situation in close collaboration with the Government, and to create an opportunity to advance the political process. The proposed increase should include highly mobile troops that would provide the force with greater flexibility to rapidly deploy in areas of heightened threat to civilians. We intend to increase our support for and engagement in the political process, as requested by the authorities of the Central African Republic, supported by the African Initiative, together with other important stakeholders, such as the Economic Community of Central African States and the Community of Sant'Egidio — and I am glad to see Mr. Garofalo here with us today — in the knowledge that only a political solution will bring lasting peace to the Central African Republic. We will seek to improve the protection of civilians with a stronger emphasis on early warning and prevention, and we will make greater efforts to ensure humanitarian access to populations in need.

The Mission will also continue to support the restoration of State authority, working together with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. We will strengthen our support to Central Africa's judicial system and to the security sector, including the gendarmerie, the police and the gradual operationalization of the Central African armed forces units trained by the European Union. In that regard, we applaud the tripartite agreement between the Government, the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic and MINUSCA for a joint deployment and use of the Central African armed forces.

The Mission I have the honour to lead will spare no effort in helping the Government and the Central African authorities, as well as all national actors committed to peace, to realize the aspirations of their people, especially its valiant youth, women and children, to a safer and more prosperous future. We will do that while ensuring that all of our civilian and uniformed personnel respect more than ever the spirit of the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse. During his visit to the Central African Republic, the Secretary-General himself reaffirmed that imperative and when he met the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, he assured them of all his compassion and determination to eradicate this scourge.

I thank troop-contributing countries that have taken important steps to curb this type of criminal behaviour. Our concerted actions have already resulted in a significant reduction in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. We can and must do even more.

(*spoke in French*)

I wish to sincerely thank the Council for recognizing the crucial role that MINUSCA plays in the Central African Republic. Significant progress has been achieved through the adoption of resolution 2301 (2016) towards establishing the national and legitimate institutions that are essential to the future of the country. The creation of the Special Criminal Court and the deployment of judicial authorities outside Bangui will allow the slow but gradual return of the rule of law, which will end impunity and the spiral of violence.

During his visit, the Secretary-General called on Central African politician and the leaders of public opinion to take urgent measures to put an end to the political manipulation and instrumentalization of ethnicity or religion, which fuel hatred and violence. There will be no peace in the Central African Republic for some so long as there is no peace for all. The Council's continued commitment will be crucial to the country's long-term stabilization and development efforts. We count on the Council's support to ensure that the current cycle of violence in the Central African Republic is broken and that the resilience and hope shown by so many Central Africans continue to benefit from the unwavering support of the international community.

I should like to borrow an idea from Saint Augustine in saying that, in the case of the Central African Republic, it is better to progress slowly in the right direction — even at a limp — than quickly in the wrong direction. Today, the Central African Republic is moving in the right direction. We must do our utmost to help it to that end. The Secretary-General is committed to that effort, and has called for a great deal of sacrifice, endurance and patience.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Onanga-Anyanga for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Nébié.

Mr. Nébié (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to thank the President of the Council for having invited me to make a briefing on the implementation of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. My briefing will focus on the following points, as the President has requested: the status of implementation of the road map for the African Initiative, the agenda in the coming months, the action of the African Union mission in Bangui, the elements hindering the peace process in the Central African Republic, the regional dimension of the crisis and, finally, recommendations.

First, with regard to the state of implementation of the Libreville road map, on 11 September in Bangui, all the structures for the operationalization of the road map for the African Initiative were put in place. Those include the panel of facilitators, the technical committee and the focal point for the Central African State. The panel of facilitators was set up on 11 September and held its first session immediately on 11 and 12 September in Bangui. The participants were the representatives of Angola, the Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon, Chad, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Those were the panel members referred to in the road map. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) was present as an observer.

During the meeting, it was suggested that the panel be extended to all neighbouring countries and to other observers who wished to join. The extraordinary conference of Foreign Ministers of ECCAS, held on 21 October in Libreville, endorsed that proposal, which seeks to strengthen the presence of all countries on the panel.

The technical committee was also formed on 11 September to establish the secretariat of the panel. The committee is made up of representatives of ECCAS, the African Union, the Central African Government and MINUSCA. It holds two meetings per week in preparation for the implementation of the road map. Since its establishment, the technical secretariat has produced a programme of activities and a draft budget. A first programme of activities had been developed, but could not be undertaken due to interference from other regional and subregional agendas. A second programme has been developed that includes the second meeting of the panel of facilitators on 24 and 25 November, followed by a field trip to meet the commanders of the armed groups.

The secretariat has also prepared a draft budget, which is estimated at $4.14 million. ECCAS has already contributed $100,000. The contribution of the African Union is expected in the coming weeks. The African Union's representation in Bangui and the panel secretariat are working hard to mobilize contributions from panel member countries and various partners. MINUSCA provides threefold support to the Initiative in terms of logistics, financial resources and security. It will also manage the first field trip.

Finally, with regard to the focal point, as provided for in the road map, the Central African Government has appointed its focal point, which is already involved in all preparatory processes.

Secondly, with regard to the Initiative's agenda for the coming months, the new programme is established as follows. From 22 November to 15 December, the second meeting of the panel is to be held in Bangui, to be followed by a first field trip to meet armed groups. From 15 to 31 January 2018, the third meeting of the panel will take place, to be followed by the second field trip to meet the armed groups. In February 2018, a dialogue will be held between the Government and the armed groups. In March 2018, an ECCAS summit will be held, with the participation of the African Union, for the signing of a comprehensive peace and reconciliation agreement between the Government and the armed groups.

Thirdly, with regard to the actions of the African Union mission in Bangui, since the formalization of the African Initiative, the African Union and ECCAS have conducted information, awareness-raising and promotion activities, both in the Central African Republic and in neighbouring countries. Following its first meeting in September, the panel of facilitators met with the President of the Republic, the President of the National Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, MINUSCA, the African Ambassadors Forum, the Coordination Group for the Preparation of and Follow-up to the Meetings of the International Support Group on the Central African Republic, and the international press. Those various meetings allowed the Chair of

the panel to bring to the attention of the authorities the conclusions of the panel's meeting and to solicit their support for the African Initiative and their commitment to dialogue and reconciliation for lasting peace in the Central African Republic. Regarding armed groups, some were sensitized to the African Initiative.

Fourthly, without being exhaustive, the main elements of the blockage of the peace process in the Central African Republic concern the lack of trust between the Government and the governed, the absence of State authority throughout the national territory and the weakness of governance, the persistence of violence committed by armed groups, poverty, the political and religious manipulation of which my colleague, Mr. Onanga-Anyanga, has just spoken, and the low levels of training and education.

Fifthly, with regard to the regional dimension of the crisis, aware that the Central African crisis has serious consequences for neighbouring countries and the subregion, the various subregional organizations — the Economic Community of Central African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region — took up the issue and put it on their agenda. Several summits and meetings have thus been held on the question of the Central African Republic to discuss issues concerning security, the economy, refugees and migration.

As Mr. Onanga-Anyanga told the Council earlier, there are 600,000 displaced persons and 500,000 refugees, in addition to the issue of transhumance. The subregional organizations have reaffirmed their determination to contribute to resolving the crisis. At the continental level, on 14 November I will make a presentation to the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on that issue.

Finally, I shall now move on to my recommendations. The Security Council will soon have to renew the MINUSCA mandate. In view of the crisis situation in the Central African Republic, I take this opportunity to make some recommendations, on the one hand, to support the process of dialogue, reconciliation and peace in the Central African Republic, and, on the other, to contribute to the economic recovery that is essential to improving the living conditions and well-being of the population.

First, support for the implementation of the road map for the Initiative will require mobilizing significant financial resources. However, the panel has few resources at its disposal apart from MINUSCA, which is willing to support its first outings in the field. I have already pointed out that the budget is $4.14 million, and the contribution of the African Union is being assessed. I seek the support of Council members for the panel's timely implementation of the programme that I have just outlined.

As for the MINUSCA mandate, given the increased activity of some armed groups, the presence of a deterrent force is necessary to compel armed and uncooperative groups to avoid violence. It is therefore essential that the mandate of MINUSCA not only be renewed, but that it be strengthened to increase its effectiveness on the ground in view of the resurgence of attacks. Similarly, an increase in the number of Blue Helmets would be very useful, as it would increase their presence and visibility on the ground, which should significantly improve the protection of civilian populations.

Thirdly, in the same vein, it is important to relax the arms embargo so as to enable the Government of the Central African Republic to equip its defence and security forces in the greatest possible transparency. These forces were created in a republican spirit to be deployed on the ground and enhance the security of populations, with the support of MINUSCA.

Fourthly, with regard to the promotion of quick-impact projects and humanitarian assistance, widespread impoverishment among the population of the Central African Republic, especially among its young people, is helping to fuel armed groups. That is why humanitarian action must be extended to areas that have not yet been served, and quick-impact and income-generating projects developed for young people and women. In addition, special emphasis should be placed on school enrolment and the education of children, as well as on accelerated and large-scale training for young people in the trades. Such a policy would allow young people to be shielded from the influence of armed groups and prevent them from joining their ranks. Similarly, there is a need to continue providing reintegration assistance to internally displaced persons.

Fifthly, with regard to the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, I appeal to the Central African Republic's partners to urgently honour the pledges made at the Brussels Conference, because only 30 per cent of pledges made at the Conference have been fulfilled to date.

Sixthly, as regards fighting impunity and the expansion of State authority, fighting impunity does not only concern the armed groups that commit abuses against civilians; it must also include the perpetrators of economic crimes, who, through corruption and embezzlement, deprive the State of the means it needs to assert its authority. We therefore encourage the Government to continue taking appropriate measures to substantially strengthen its authority to combat that scourge.

The people of the Central African Republic have suffered enough. It is therefore extremely urgent that the international community, as represented by the Security Council, take strong and concrete measures and actions to mitigate its unspeakable suffering. I also take this opportunity to make a strong appeal to the political classes, civil society, the forces and all the people of the Central African Republic to make an exceptional, patriotic and collective demonstration for peace and reconciliation in their country.

For my part, I reaffirm the commitment and determination of the African Union and its representatives in Bangui to remain with the people of the Central African Republic in order to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. The sole objective of the African Union is peace and reconciliation for Central Africans. I reaffirm what Mr. Onanga-Anyanga said earlier, namely, that we are working hand in hand, in perfect symbiosis, to effectively implement the African Initiative, to which the Secretary-General has publicly reaffirmed his support.

In conclusion, I wish the Council every success in its work and thank members for their attention and for placing the Central African Republic at the heart of the Council's agenda.

The President: I thank Mr. Nébié for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Garofalo.

Mr. Garofalo (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, on behalf of the Community of Sant'Egidio, for the second invitation to address the Security Council regarding the situation in the Central African Republic.

The Secretary-General's visit to Bangui and Bangassou has certainly had a positive impact on the peace and reconciliation process. Through its presence at the highest level, the United Nations is reiterating its full commitment to finding a way out of the crisis in the Central African Republic, despite unanimous agreement that the situation in the country remains very precarious.

The affection with which the Secretary-General was welcomed by the population — which I witnessed first hand — clearly demonstrates that, in spite of difficulties, there is a real need for positive signals to counter the exclusively pessimistic narrative to which I fear we have become too accustomed. We should never lose sight of the fact that the country's chronic instability did not start in 2013, but dates back more than 20 years. In that respect, the deficiencies of the process that are noted by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2017/865) are also the toxic consequences of a long-standing lack of trust, to which we all must react.

In that difficult context, Sant'Egidio has taken the political initiative of holding a meeting in Rome on 19 June, with the specific goal of moving forward and demonstrating that something concrete could be done. With its own means, Sant'Egidio is helping to rebuild the social fabric of the country, improve relations among groups and communities, and strengthen institutions. We believe that direct political dialogue and listening to people on the ground are effective measures. In that regard, I also underscore the positive steps taken by President Touadra towards greater inclusiveness, by expanding the Government.

Following the agreement, we also launched a disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (DDRR) pilot project, in collaboration with the State and with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). By the end of the year, we hope to demobilize 600 men in armed groups and to reintegrate them into the Central African Republic armed forces and other civilian programmes.

Following on from the Rome agreement, confidence-building measures were taken with the leadership of political and military movements. We are also committed to providing food to the fighters who will be reintegrated into civil society in the three months between the disarmament process and the start of the reintegration programme. The first concrete results are that some 200 fighters have been disarmed, in accordance with the rules of the DDRR programme, and have been provided with assistance. We now enjoy have greater security and practicability, for example

regarding commercial access to the Bouar-Cameroon corridor, the country's main lifeline.

Not all armed groups have reacted in the same way, obviously. Some of them, including the Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain, the renewed Séléka and the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement, have reacted more quickly than others. However, the implementation of the pilot project in the eight sites envisioned with all 14 groups is essential to verify the capacity of the movements to respect their commitments.

That initial success should contribute to fostering a new climate of trust throughout the whole country. Hope must become contagious and act as an incentive. We hope to quickly go beyond the initial figures agreed — to disarm 1,000 men. Such a step will demonstrate the feasibility of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration process and reassert the progressive expansion of the authority of the State on broad swaths of territory. Indeed it is a positive step, although lacking an efficient solution in an atmosphere polluted by hatred.

There are others, as underscored in the report of the Secretary-General, in terms of political dialogue, training and rehabilitation of the national armed forces and socioeconomic steps. We are also providing assistance in that regard through sanitation programmes. I believe that the initial success of the disarmament process will determine the credibility of the entire process. We need to demonstrate that it can work. It is important to prove that disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration is possible, and not just wishful thinking.

At the same time, we need to remain steadfast in protecting civilians, international justice, territorial integrity and the legitimacy of the authority of the State. That is the aim of the road map of the African Union. I would like to thank Special Envoy Moussa Nébié for having demonstrated leadership and a very inclusive approach. The Community of Sant'Egidio is committed to the full success of that initiative. I would also like to thank Economic Community of Central African States — whose member States obviously suffer the main impact of the crisis in the Central African Republic.

Allow me, by way of conclusion, to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Onanga-Anyanga for his devotion and, by extension, thank all of the MINUSCA personnel. Their presence and tireless daily efforts are the major bulwark against chaos and violence.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Garofalo for his briefing.

(*spoke in English*)

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation for the briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga; the Special Representative of the African Union, Mr. Bedializoun Moussa Nébié; and the Head of International Relations of the Community of Sant'Egidio, Mr. Mauro Garofalo.

For several months now, the Central African Republic has swung between consolidating the achievements made since the completion of the political transition period and election of President Touadéra, especially the headway made in the areas of Bangui and Bambari, and a serious deterioration in security conditions in other parts of the country, which has negatively impacted both the humanitarian situation and human rights of the local population.

Uruguay would like to express its profound concern about the ongoing clashes between armed groups in the Central African Republic and the attacks targeting civilians in specific communities, as well as United Nations peacekeeping personnel and humanitarian workers. Those groups continue to destabilize the country and cause the loss of many lives, in addition to the significant displacement of the population.

I take this opportunity to underscore the heroism demonstrated by Spanish Bishop Juan José Aguirre of the Diocese of Bangassou, who, on various occasions since 2014, has served as a human shield to protect all Christian and Muslim followers alike from ruthless militia attacks. We therefore exhort the leaders of the armed groups to spread awareness among their members with a view to committing to an immediate and total ceasefire of hostilities and fulfilling, without restriction, their commitments to the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process.

In order to reverse the downward spiral in which the country unfortunately finds itself immersed, it is

critical that the international community continue to encourage and support the efforts of the Government of the Central African Republic in the name of peace and stability, which requires urgent, decisive and consistent measures. I would like to commend the active role played by Secretary-Genera António Guterres in that regard. The organization of the high-level ministerial meeting on the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, which was held on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in September, and his recent visit to the country from 24 to 27 October are clear examples of his resolute commitment, which all Member States should support decisively.

We also recognize the important efforts made by the African Union through the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation, as well as the efforts of the Community of Sant'Egidio through the Rome agreement of 19 June, representatives of which are present today and have reiterated their commitment to continue supporting the Government and the people of the Central African Republic in their quest for peace. Uruguay encourages all Central Africans, the Government, armed groups and all segments of society to commit to those initiatives and work towards their implementation.

The current mandate of the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), established in accordance with resolution 2301 (2016), is drawing to a close. In our opinion, the Mission has played a key role in keeping the peace in Central African Republic, especially through its good offices and support for the peace process, protecting civilians and monitoring human rights violations, as well as through its support to the Government to expand the authority of the State and strengthen its institutional capacities.

Uruguay commends the work carried out by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with respect to the strategic review of the Mission. We express our full support for its assessment of the current situation, its findings and its recommendations for the future mandate of MINUSCA, including the suggestion to increase the maximum amount of authorized resources. The new mandate of the Mission will require greater prioritization of tasks so as to better adapt to the current situation on the ground.

However, it is worthwhile to point out that, however much improvement in capacity-building and strengthening of the Mission's mandate, a peacekeeping mission in and of itself cannot, nor is it its responsibility, to substitute for a State or stabilize an entire country. Such achievements can be made only through the shared work of all national stakeholders, with the ongoing support from their international partners.

To conclude, allow me to pay tribute to the Blue Helmets who have lost their lives this year in the discharge of their duties as the consequence of cowardly attacks, which we condemn in the strongest possible terms. The security of the members of MINUSCA must be at the heart of our attention — a necessary condition for them to be able to fulfil their mandate. We must remember that attacks against Blue Helmets may be considered to be war crimes and that their perpetrators must be held accountable and brought to justice.

Mr. Inchauste Jordán (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Bolivia is grateful for the briefings provided by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Mr. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, and by the Special Representative for the African Union for the Central African Republic, Mr. Bedializoun Moussa Nébié, as well as the important statement delivered by Mr. Mauro Garofalo on behalf of the Community of Sant'Egidio. We also welcome the presence of Her Excellency the Permanent Representative for the Central African Republic.

We would like to again express our concern about the continuing environment of violence in the Central African Republic. The situation of insecurity, asymmetrical attacks and ongoing intercommunal clashes severely impact the civilian population, in particular those who are most vulnerable, including boys and girls. It is also further eroding the humanitarian situation. In that regard, Bolivia condemns the constant attacks perpetrated by armed groups against civilians and the personnel of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

We value and commend the members of the Mission — military, police and civilian personnel — who carry out their work in a volatile and extremely high-risk environment. The protection of civilians, security coverage, support to the Central African Republic State to expand its authority, inter alia, are activities that

unquestionably strengthen the peace process, which, unfortunately, has not been concluded to date.

It is clear that the difficult challenges in the process of building political stability in the country must be addressed through inclusive dialogue, consistent demonstration of political will by all stakeholders in the country, as well as through a serious and sustained commitment by all parties to the conflict.

We welcome and value the recent visit of the Secretary-General to the Central African Republic, in which he reaffirmed the solidarity of the international community, in particular in dealing with the challenges of maintaining peace and security, the building of State institutions and its establishment throughout the territory, as well as national reconciliation and development.

Furthermore, fighting and violence have led to worrisome consequences, and therefore drastic humanitarian consequences. According to data from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/865), during the reporting period approximately 50 per cent of the population depended upon external support to survive, 2.4 million Central Africans required urgent humanitarian assistance, and there had been 600,000 new internally displaced persons, totalling 1.1 million people since 2016; in other words, one in five people suffer the effects of forced displacement. Five hundred tousand refugees live in neighbouring countries, such as Cameroon, Chad, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Food insecurity affects one in four people, reaching the figure of 2 million people at risk in the Central African Republic.

Furthermore, violations of international humanitarian law further aggravate the situation of hundreds of victims; men, women and children who are subjected to sexual violence, trafficking in persons and other crimes. We believe it is crucial to at last operationalize the Special Criminal Court. We encourage MINUSCA and the United Nations Development Programme to continue efforts to that end with a view to combaingt impunity and prosecuting those responsible for war crimes.

With that in mind, Bolivia once again calls on all the armed groups to lay down their arms, set aside sectarian interests that prevent fruitful dialogue and achieve agreement to benefit of the civilian population and stabilize the country and submit to demobilization, disarmament and reintegration.

Aware of the difficult process that the Central African people are going through without having achieved stability and peace, we see with concern that entire communities have been torn apart by the vicious cycle of violence. Opportunities to achieve progress in the establishment of peace and stability seem distant.

Against that backdrop, we welcome the active support and constant participation of regional organizations, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and neighbouring countries, whose support has been and will continue to be essential, through political pacification and cooperation initiatives in a lasting reconciliation process based on the principle of African solutions for African conflicts and strict respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic.

We must underscore all the efforts of the Government of the Central African Republic, led by President Touadera, in the search for ways to establish an inclusive dialogue and understanding, in addition to carrying out important reforms, such as establishing the national strategy for security sector reform, which was approved on 4 September; the establishment of 14 courts around the country; in addition to the adoption of the national reconciliation programme on 11 September, the establishment of a truth, justice, reparations and reconciliation commission; and the road map for the operationalization of the National Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Commission. Those are important steps to be added to the efforts of the international community.

In conclusion, we echo the observations and recommendations of the Secretary-General, first, with regard to the strengthening of the capabilities of MINUSCA, and to provide it greater flexibility and enable it to better deploy in the areas of greatest risk. However, and as mentioned by the Secretary-General, the Mission will not restore peace alone; the people of the Central African Republic themselves have the primary responsibility for bringing peace and stability to the country.

The full and committed support of the international community, the United Nations and regional

organizations must assist the people of Central Africa to establish peace and security.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, as well as the Special Representative of the African Union, Mr. Moussa Nebie, and the representative of the Community of Sant'Egidio, Mr. Mauro Garofalo, for their detailed briefings.

We share the concerns about the continuing situation of military and political tension in the country and the fact that clashes between groups are increasingly ethnic and confessional in nature. Of course, civilians are the ones who suffer the most. The top priority of all parties to the conflict should be to provide humanitarian access to the victims. The authorities must create the conditions for a safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes.

The already difficult situation is further complicated by the fact that the authorities actually control only the capital, Bangui, and the local Government bodies are paralysed or lacking in the rest of the country. The adoption of the national strategy for the restoration of State authority on 8 September and the appointment of prefects and subprefects are certainly steps in the right direction, but much remains to be done to do.

With the signing in Rome, on 19 June, of a peaceful political agreement between the Government and armed groups, real prospects for normalizing the situation in the Central African Republic have opened up. We support the steps outlined in that document towards stabilization and establishing a ceasefire throughout the country, lifting restrictions on the free movement of goods and people, releasing illegally detained persons and ensuring that illegal armed groups recognzie authorities elected in the 2015-2016 elections as legitimate. We believe it is necessary for all parties to the agreement to undertake additional efforts to quickly implement its provisions.

We support the steps being taken by Bangui to reform the security sector and resume control over the entire territory of the country. Those steps are aimed at contributing, including with the support of the international community, to resolving the issues and tasks, many of which were justly mentioned in the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/865), and they contribute to implementing the national defence plan approved by President Touadera on 4 September, which includes the gradual transfer of responsibility for State affairs in the country to the legitimate authorities.

We note the efforts by the Government of the Central African Republic aimed at ensuring operational and combat readiness and rapidly deploying two battalions of its armed forces, which, as we understand it, should form the backbone of the future unified armed forces of the country. The Central African authorities will need to work together to ensure that the justice system starts working properly, with a focus on building national capacities.

Temporary emergency measures by peacekeepers and the delayed establishment of the Special Criminal Court are not a panacea for the country's problems in combating impunity. International experience has shown that various courts with international support are not very effective and are costly.

It is also important to create favourable conditions for the implementation of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. Also, the road map for a Central African settlement adopted in the Libreville on 17 July must be fully implemented. In that connection, we stress the importance of coordinating and harmonizing all the peace initiatives related to the Central African Republic.

The Blue Helmets are playing an important stabilizing role in the Central African Republic. We are ready to carefully study the proposal of the Secretary-General on increasing the military component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), given the difficult situation in the country. At the same time, we want to stress once again that we must be careful in cooperating with troop-contributing countries. It is unacceptable for an entire contingent to be removed due to sexual abuses committed by a few individual peacekeepers and to have no substitute for the unit for an extended period of time, which seriously undermines the operational potential of the mission.

It is essential to take coherent steps to address the challenges facing the Central African community and to allocate funds from international partners and donors, including the resources pledged at the Brussels Conference for the Central African Republic in November 2016. In that context, we encourage Bangui to create a transparent and effective national system in order to manage international aid.

Russia, as a participant in the international support group on the Central African Republic, intends to continue actively promoting the peace process in the Central African Republic, where Russian air transport resources have already made a significant contribution to MINUSCA operations.

Mr. Temenov (Kazakhstan): We thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Parfait Onanga-Anyanga for his insightful briefing, and we thank African Union Special Representative Bédializoun Moussa Nébié for joining us today. We would also like to warmly welcome the Head of International Relations of Sant'Egidio, Mr. Mauro Garofalo, who brings the invaluable expertise of the Community in the mediation process for national reconciliation in the Central African Republic and the wider region.

Kazakhstan is deeply concerned about the progressively deteriorating security and humanitarian situation, marked by growing sectarian and ethnic violence in the Central African Republic. That is despite the significant achievements of the Government, as well as regional and international partners, in advancing peacebuilding initiatives in the crisis-torn country.

We are confident that the recent visit and active solidarity by Secretary-General Guterres to the Central African Republic will provide an impetus for further progress in all the efforts to consolidate peace. We strongly believe that our focus should be on the four interlinking components highlighted by the Secretary-General during his trip to the Central African Republic, namely, security, State-building, national reconciliation and development. Religious factions in different parts of the country that had not existed before are alarming indicators. We urge all political, community and religious leaders in the Central African Republic to work towards true national reconciliation.

The international community must be engaged in supporting national authorities to continue the political process at this critical moment. We welcome the various mediation initiatives of the European Union and the African Union, including the African initiative for peace and reconciliation for accelerating the peace process, together with the World Bank. The role of the subregional efforts such as those of the Sant'Egidio Community are significantly critical.

At the same time, it is crucial to implement the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, which brings together all the relevant stakeholders based on an integrated and coordinated approach under the principle of national ownership. We call on all donors to fulfil their Brussels commitments to ensure that the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan is fully funded, so that it can realize its impact on the stabilization of the country.

We commend the efforts of the Central African Republic Government for its initiatives, such as implementing the national defence plan, developing a national strategy to combat the illicit trafficking in natural resources, operationalizing the Special Criminal Court, reforming the security sector and preventing impunity with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Another priority focus is to work closely with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, combat sexual violence against women and implement the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

We express our full support for the mandate of MINUSCA, particularly in its ongoing efforts to restore security. In the wake of the resurgence of violence in the east and south of the country, which exposed the limits of the overall operational response of MINUSCA, we agree that the Mission should focus on its core peacekeeping tasks and prioritize support to the national and local political processes. It should adjust its capacity to protect civilians and facilitate the creation of a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In conclusion, we would like to stress the need to support the national dialogue, reinforce the legitimacy of the Government and its authority and to revitalize mediation, given that the solution is political and not military. Likewise, MINUSCA, in coordination with the United Nations system, will need to strengthen the security-development nexus through greater investments in socioeconomic development and the provision of basic services, youth education and employment, while simultaneously addressing the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

Finally, we pay tribute to Special Representative Onanga-Anyanga and MINUSCA for their valiant service under such hazardous conditions, and we endorse the extension of the MINUSCA mandate.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Central African Republic.

Ms. Kpongo (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by paying special tribute to His Excellency Secretary-General António Guterres for having kept his promise to visit my country, the Central African Republic, a few months after taking office. It is our hope that his visit will bring about change to the tragic situation we are experiencing in the Central African Republic.

Like those who preceded me, I would like warmly to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of November, while wishing you every success in the accomplishment of this noble task. I am certain that your rich diplomatic experience and great personal qualities are an indicator of the success of your mandate. Allow me to also express my deep admiration to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. François Delattre, for the enormous workload to which he brought so much energy during his mandate.

The visit of the Secretary-General recently made to Bangui is a historic and symbolic journey of great significance for the Central African people, who have been cut to the quick. His four-day stay certainly provided an opportunity for the Secretary-General and the large delegation that accompanied him to measure the extent of the challenges still to be met, particularly the security and humanitarian challenges. His meetings with all stakeholders of the Central African crisis enabled him to take stock of what remains to be done.

His appeal to the international community to pay closer attention to the situation in our country reinforces our conviction that the United Nations — and especially the Security Council — will take substantial decisions and measures in the preparation and adoption of the draft resolution renewing the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). In that regard, I would like to commend the tireless efforts of Head of Mission Onanga-Anyanga, whose presence in this Chamber is a source of encouragement for us. We cannot praise him enough for his dynamism and unwavering commitment to working with Central African authorities in order to find ways and means to extricate our country from this crisis.

I must also commend the outstanding collaboration and dialogue between the Government and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in addressing all the delicate aspects of the crisis situation in the Central African Republic. The briefing that he has made on the situation in the Central African Republic was very eloquent, and therefore I will not repeat what he said. The situation continues to be of grave concern at all levels. I also wish to thank the Special Representative of the African Union for his briefing, which provided us with a greater understanding of the situation and that it requires greater attention and many resources to assist the African Union in carrying out the road map.

We are turning to the members of the Security Council, calling on them for their support in the form of providing MINUSCA with a new mandate that is commensurate with the challenges that the Mission's Head has just outlined for us. Those challenges, as I said, are numerous, and we are expecting flexibility and understanding from Council members.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I would like to thank the briefers for the quality of their statements.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

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Seventy-second year

Provisional

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Monday, 6 November 2017, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Cardi	(Italy)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Temenov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Allen
	United States of America	Ms. Tachco
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

The situation in Myanmar

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17-36478 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Myanmar

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Bangladesh and Myanmar to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

After consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council condemns the attacks against Myanmar security forces carried out by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on 25 August in Rakhine state and expresses grave concern over accounts that ARSA has been responsible for human rights abuses.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the widespread violence that has taken place in Rakhine state, Myanmar, since 25 August, which has led to the mass displacement of more than 607,000 individuals, the vast majority belonging to the Rohingya community.

"The Security Council further expresses grave concern over reports of human rights violations and abuses in Rakhine state, including by the Myanmar security forces, in particular against persons belonging to the Rohingya community, including those involving the systematic use of force and intimidation, the killing of men, women, and children, sexual violence, and including the destruction and burning of homes and property.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Myanmar, stresses its support to the Government of Myanmar in the pursuit and consolidation of its ongoing democratic transition process, and emphasizes the importance of reforms to promote accountable Government institutions, especially in the security and justice sectors and to build the confidence of the people of Myanmar.

"The Security Council stresses the primary responsibility of the Government of Myanmar to protect its population, including through respect for the rule of law and the respect, promotion and protection of human rights.

"The Security Council calls upon the Government of Myanmar to ensure no further excessive use of military force in Rakhine state, to restore civilian administration and apply the rule of law, and to take immediate steps in accordance with its obligations and commitments to respect human rights, including the human rights of women, children and persons belonging to vulnerable groups, without discrimination and regardless of ethnicity, religion or citizenship status; further calls on the Government of Myanmar to implement measures in line with resolution 2106 (2013) to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual violence; and encourages in this regard the Government of Myanmar to work with the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

"The Security Council expresses further grave concern over accounts of intercommunal violence and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to take all necessary measures to counter incitement to violence or hatred and restore peace and intercommunal harmony through dialogue and a comprehensive reconciliation process, and by respecting the rule of law.

"The Security Council expresses alarm at the significantly and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Rakhine state and grave concern at the increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons, which has a destabilizing impact in the region.

"The Security Council notes the initial steps taken by the Government of Myanmar and humanitarian agencies to provide humanitarian assistance to individuals in Rakhine state, including through granting access to the World Food Programme, expresses its deep concern that humanitarian access remains severely limited and that humanitarian needs exceed the current levels of provision, and demands that the Government of Myanmar grant immediate, safe and unhindered access to United Nations agencies and their partners, as well as other domestic and international non-governmental organizations, to

provide humanitarian assistance in Rakhine state, as well as to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel.

"The Security Council highly commends the efforts undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh, with the assistance of the United Nations, their partners and other nongovernmental organisations, to provide safety, shelter and humanitarian assistance to those who have fled the violence, encourages the Government of Bangladesh to continue to do so until those who have fled the violence can return voluntarily and in conditions of safety and dignity to their homes in Myanmar, with due regard to the principle of non-refoulement, welcomes States' provision of support to Bangladesh, and encourages States able to do so to provide further financial and logistical support to Bangladesh, the United Nations, in particular to the United Nations Rohingya Refugee Crisis Humanitarian Response Plan, and other humanitarian partners engaged in this effort.

"The Security Council welcomes the signing of a memorandum of understanding on 24 October 2017 between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh on the situation in Rakhine state, urges the Government of Myanmar to work with the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations to allow the voluntary return of all refugees in conditions of safety and dignity to their homes in Myanmar, welcomes in this regard the commitment to establish a joint working group between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to implement this process, urges the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to invite the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant international organization to participate fully in the joint working group and implementation of the returns process, and further calls upon the Government of Myanmar to expedite the voluntary return of all internally displaced persons in conditions of safety and dignity to their homes in Myanmar.

"The Security Council welcomes the Government of Myanmar's decision to establish the Union Enterprise Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Development in Rakhine (the Union Enterprise Mechanism) as well as its commitment to ensure that humanitarian assistance and development work undertaken by the Union Enterprise Mechanism is provided for the benefit of all communities in Rakhine state without discrimination and regardless of religion or ethnicity, urges the Government of Myanmar to ensure that the Union Enterprise Mechanism supports the voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced individuals and refugees to their homes in Rakhine state, and to allow United Nations agencies to operate with full access in Rakhine state.

"The Security Council urges the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, the United Nations and other humanitarian partners to pay special attention to the specific needs of women and girls in all assessments, planning and delivery of humanitarian assistance and to ensure the availability of specialized medical and psychosocial services for survivors of sexual violence.

"The Security Council commends the continued efforts of countries of the region and regional organizations, in particular the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the European Union, in providing humanitarian assistance and supporting dialogue between all relevant stakeholders.

"The Security Council calls upon the Government of Myanmar to address the root causes of the crisis in Rakhine state by respecting, promoting and protecting human rights, without discrimination and regardless of ethnicity or religion, including by allowing freedom of movement, equal access to basic services, and equal access to full citizenship for all individuals.

"The Security Council welcomes the Government of Myanmar's public commitment to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan, as well as the establishment of a ministerial-level committee to implement the recommendations, and urges all parts of the Government of Myanmar to work together to implement these recommendations swiftly and in full.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of undertaking transparent investigations into allegations of human rights abuses and violations, including sexual violence and abuse and violence against children, and of holding to account all

those responsible for such acts to provide justice for victims.

"In this regard, the Security Council calls upon the Government of Myanmar to cooperate with all relevant United Nations bodies, mechanisms and instruments, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and to continue further consultations on opening a country office of the OHCHR.

"The Security Council calls upon the Government of Myanmar to urgently grant domestic and international media organisations full and unhindered access to Rakhine state and throughout the country and to ensure the safety and security of media personnel.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions with the Government of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, to offer assistance to the Government of Myanmar in this regard, and encourages him to consider, as appropriate, appointing a special adviser on Myanmar.

"The Security Council remains determined to continue to closely follow the situation in Myanmar and requests the Secretary-General to brief the Security Council on developments on the situation in Rakhine after 30 days from the adoption of this statement."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2017/22.

I now give the floor to the representative of Myanmar.

Mr. Suan (Myanmar): We are deeply concerned by the adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2017/22, on the situation in Myanmar.

We thank those delegations that tried hard to balance the text and reflect the reality. However, it fails to give sufficient recognition to the Government of Myanmar for its efforts to address the challenges in Rakhine state. It also singles out a Member State based on accusations and false evidence. We strongly reject the use of self-designated nomenclature in the statement, which will not help to resolve the issue. The statement will not help our efforts to resolve the issue, but rather lead to further polarization and escalation of tensions among different religious communities in the country and beyond. It exerts undue political pressure on Myanmar.

Some elements of the statement infringe on the work of the other organs of the United Nations. The same issue is under consideration in the Third Committee of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. At this time, many delegations, including those in the Security Council, are pointing to the need to avoid duplication of work and to make stringent use of the budget of the United Nations. Such duplication of work is unwarranted.

I take this opportunity to apprise the Security Council of the recent developments in Rakhine state. As members are aware, the 25 August terrorist attacks and ensuing terrorist actions committed by the so-called Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) triggered one of the most tragic situations in Rakhine state. Innocent civilians from different communities had to flee their homes and villages out of fear. Thousands of ethnic Rakhine, Hindu and small minority groups, such as the Daing-net, Mro, Thet and Mramagyi, sought safe places in southern Rakhine, whereas the majority of the Muslim community took refuge on the Bangladesh side for various reasons. We feel deeply for the suffering of all the people who have been caught up in the conflict.

Recognizing the unfolding humanitarian tragedy, the Government of Myanmar, in a spirit of good-neighbourliness, has reached out to Bangladesh. There has been exchange of visits at the ministerial level, most recently in October. On 24 October, two memorandums of understanding were also signed on the establishment of border liaison offices and on security cooperation and dialogue. We have been working closely with Bangladesh on the voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons. We are currently working on the arrangement for repatriation. Once we finalize the arrangement, a joint working group will be set up and the repatriation process will start immediately.

I would like to highlight some of the measures taken by Myanmar towards solving the issues we face in Rakhine state.

A ministerial-level committee has been set up and started its work for the expeditious implementation of the recommendations the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, led by Mr. Kofi Annan.

With regard to the current humanitarian situation in Rakhine state, the Union Enterprise Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine has been launched and begun its work. State Counsellor Daw Augn San Suu Kyi visited the areas in northern Rakhine state on 2 November.

We are also working with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management and the Red Cross Movement to provide humanitarian assistance to people in need, in accordance with humanitarian principles. Moreover, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization are already working on the ground. We continue to maintain our cooperation with the United Nations. We are engaging with high-ranking officials from the Secretariat and United Nations funds, programmes and agencies. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, recently visited Myanmar.

We are disappointed by the presidential statement's failure to mention the attacks of 25 August as a terrorist act. Everyone in the Chamber agrees with me that we cannot condone terrorism in any form or manifestation. I hope that the statement will not help to spread terrorism in the world.

Allow me to draw the Council's attention to a news article under the headline "Foreign Militants In Rakhine". The article says:

> "Scores of foreign militants — mostly Pakistanis and Bangladeshis — are fighting besides rebels of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) since radical groups across the Islamic world called for 'a jihad against Burmese colonialism' in the Arakans (Rakhine).
>
> "Indian intelligence officials say they have intercepted communication between some of the Pakistani militants fighting for ARSA when they called their principals and relatives in Pakistan.
>
> "On the basis of the intercepts, the number of Pakistani militants fighting in Rakhine has been estimated around 30 to 40, but if such recruitment is a continuous process, these numbers may go up."

Alhough we reject some elements contained in the presidential statement, we are determined to find a sustainable solution for the issue of Rakhine state. We will continue to work with all stakeholders who are interested in being part of the solution in our quest to find a sustainable answer to the protracted and tragic issue of Rakhine state. We are determined to work with the international community, including the United Nations and interested parties, towards sustainable peace and development for all in Rakhine state.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): I thank you, Sir, for giving Bangladesh this opportunity to speak. We wish to thank you and, through you, all members of the Council for the consensus adoption of the fairly comprehensive presidential statement S/PRST/2017/22 this afternoon.

It will be quite reassuring to the Rohingya and other communities forcibly displaced from northern Rakhine state since 25 August that the Council remains engaged with their prolonged suffering, insecurity and uncertainty. We believe that the presidential statement can be a critical building block to help the Council to pursue timely, decisive and appropriate action until the time when a peaceful, just and lasting solution to this unfolding humanitarian crisis is achieved. From our perspective, it is of paramount importance that the Council speak in a unified manner on this situation, even though time is of the essence.

Bangladesh thanks the Council for its recognition of the efforts of our Government and people to stand by those in desperate need of safety, shelter and humanitarian assistance. We thank the United Nations and relevant humanitarian partners for sharing the work with us during this unprecedented influx of nearly 610,000 people, many of them children. I can assure the Council that Bangladesh will continue to work towards fulfilling what the Council has recommended and invited us to do. We shall remain engaged with Myanmar in good faith to find a lasting solution to this dire humanitarian situation, provided that our overtures and initiatives are reciprocated in a sustained and meaningful manner.

This time around, we shall also seek the international community's sustained engagement in and ownership of our bilateral efforts with Myanmar. As we have said time and again, Bangladesh stands ready to do our part but, as we know from experience, we shall not be able to make any headway unless the international community, especially the Council, stays hands-on as custodian of

our efforts. The statement just made by my Myanmar counterpart gives a hint of the complex challenges to be encountered, not least the persistent denial of the situation on the ground.

The presidential statement aptly recognizes that the growing number of refugees and forcibly displaced persons has a destabilizing impact on the region. On the specific question of their repatriation, we are yet to embark on any concrete steps between Bangladesh and Myanmar. There has been a decision to constitute a joint working group, but the details of its mandate and parameters will need to be just, transparent and comprehensive, without the imposition of unnecessary caveats. The presidential statement offers some broad guidelines for the process and recognizes the many commitments and pronouncements made by Myanmar. It will now be critical to make sure that those statements of intent result in concrete deliverables so that the Rohingya can gain the trust and confidence that they may return to their homes in Rakhine state in safety and dignity.

We sincerely hope that there will be some positive and tangible progress in the situation on the ground by the time the Secretary-General reports to the Council in 30 days from now. In the meantime, the General Assembly, through its Third Committee, is poised to further strengthen the Secretary-General's tireless efforts by giving him the mandate to appoint a special envoy on the situation in Myanmar. We take this opportunity to invite all Member States to support the General Assembly's draft resolution in order to reinforce the complementarity of the work of the Assembly and the Council.

We reiterate our Prime Minister's observation that the problem has its roots in Myanmar, and its solution has to be found in Myanmar. For now, the priorities are clear to all.

First, there has to be sufficient and unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance in northern Rakhine state so that the remaining Rohingya population — whatever small number remains — does not feel compelled to leave. Secondly, the Union Enterprise Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine set up by the Myanmar authorities must start making a real difference on the ground in Rakhine state, and the joint working group between Bangladesh and Myanmar must start demonstrable, result-oriented and sustainable work on the repatriation process. Thirdly, the recommendations made by the Kofi Annan Advisory Commission on Rakhine State must be used as a viable and comprehensive road map for restoring the rights and freedoms of the Rohingya, including their citizenship, with a view to ensuring their safety and peaceful coexistence with other communities in Rakhine state.

We hope the presidential statement adopted by the Council today will give further impetus to addressing these priorities. We wish to put on record our profound appreciation to the delegations for the United Kingdom and France for their relentless efforts in achieving this consensus outcome in the Council.

Referring to the statement made by the representative of Myanmar, the allegation that Bangladesh abets terrorism in Rakhine state is pure fiction.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8086

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8086th meeting

Monday, 6 November 2017, 3.25 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Cardi	(Italy)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Akylbayev
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Dieng
	Sweden	Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Allen
	United States of America	Ms. Tachco
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

United Nations peacekeeping operations

Police Commissioners

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

United Nations peacekeeping operations

Police Commissioners

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Mr. Issoufou Yacouba, Police Commissioner of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali; Mr. Georges-Pierre Monchotte, Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti; and Ms. Priscilla Makotose, Police Commissioner of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/926, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Italy.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2382 (2017).

The intention is for this meeting to be as interactive as possible, along the lines of the briefing held last November (see S/PV.7808) and our dialogues with the Force Commanders. We look forward to questions from Council members to the Commissioners and from the Commissioners to the Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lacroix.

Mr. Lacroix: I would like to thank the Security Council for convening this briefing on the role of United Nations policing in peace operations. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the adoption of resolution 2382 (2017), which builds on the milestone resolution 2185 (2014) and reflects the increasingly central role of United Nations police (UNPOL) in peacekeeping.

I am particularly pleased that we are joined today by the Heads of the police components of our missions in Haiti, Mali and Darfur. They will share stories of accomplishments and challenges in the many areas of United Nations police work, including host-State police capacity-building and development, the protection of civilians, gender-sensitive policing and countering transnational organized crime.

Last month here in the Chamber, the Secretary-General made it clear that he wants more efficient and cost-effective peace operations. The aim is for a more coherent approach to peace and security, development and human rights. What that means for United Nations police is a continued vital role in bridging United Nations work, from prevention to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. From the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Central African Republic and from South Sudan to Haiti, United Nations police provide operational support, assist in the reform of police services and, where appropriately mandated, undertake interim policing functions. I am pleased to share a few examples of how we achieve our mandates.

First, United Nations police now operate on a solid foundation of police doctrine, that is, the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping, which was developed in close partnership with Member States, regional organizations and police professionals worldwide. That has allowed, for example, for the adoption of comprehensive approaches to police operations, capacity-building and development. United Nations police now focus not only on the transfer of basic skills but also on strengthening host-State police institutions. They mentor and advise at the command level, informed by close consultations with the host State. Commissioner Monchotte will brief the Council further in that regard. That work translates into improved management of human resources and recruitment, fleet and procurement systems, rigorous internal oversight mechanisms and increased outreach to communities. In addition, the Strategic Guidance Framework also allows us to improve efficiency in

police generation and performance measurement. Streamlined recruitment processes enable us to better respond to host-State and mission needs and to identify specific skill sets needed in the field. The Police Division is also finalizing an accountability framework for United Nations policing, as called for in last year's report of the Secretary-General (S/2016/952).

Secondly, United Nations police play an increasingly vital and unique role in the protection of civilians, through community-oriented and intelligence-led policing. When our police officers walk the beat, they interact with local communities, establish trust, collect early warning signs and help our missions to better respond to imminent threats.

Equally important is UNPOL's work with host-State counterparts in prioritizing the protection of civilians and training them in their tasks. UNPOL also provide physical protection to civilians when the host State is unable or unwilling to do so. That multi-pronged approach — which is now included in departmental guidance on the protection of civilians — ranges from prevention and information collection to training, advocacy and physical protection.

Thirdly, United Nations police components are increasingly called upon to assist their host-State counterparts in fighting serious and organized crime. Commissioner Yacouba will share more details on UNPOL's support for the Malian authorities in that regard. Our police components assist the host State in setting up criminal intelligence systems and using modern technology to prevent and investigate serious and organized crime. They also help to improve the police's interactions and relationships with the communities in the host State, through better information sharing and partnerships to fight crime.

Fourthly, improving our effectiveness means recruiting more women to our police ranks. As Police Commissioner Makotose will tell us, women police officers perform all the tasks that their male colleagues perform. In addition, they mentor and inspire future women police leaders, increase access to justice for women and children at risk and improve information gathering and analysis by reaching vulnerable groups. Unfortunately, few of our police leadership positions are occupied by women. We need more nominations of qualified women police executives from Member States. In December in Addis Ababa, the Secretariat will co-host, with the African Union, the first of four female senior police officer command development courses to prepare the next generation of female police leaders to take up international command positions.

Finally, on the issue of conduct and discipline, United Nations police have received operational guidance on the implementation of resolution 2272 (2016). If needed, the Department will not hesitate to replace police units from countries that have failed to hold perpetrators accountable.

As we demand more from our police officers, we also need to go the extra mile to ensure their welfare, safety and security in the field. We need to supply our police peacekeepers with up-to-date equipment to increase their situational awareness and to be in a better position to respond to threats to mission personnel. I believe we must also tackle disparities in conditions of service among different types of police personnel, which negatively impact morale.

Today's discussion will not resolve all police peacekeeping challenges. Nevertheless, my hope is that it will help us to further mobilize international support for the United Nations police and build on the momentum generated by the first-ever Security Council resolution on the United Nations police in 2014, as well as resolution 2382 (2017), adopted today, and the first United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit. I look forward to hearing the Council's views how we can together strengthen United Nations police.

The President: I thank Mr. Lacroix for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Yacouba.

Mr. Yacouba (*spoke in French*): I would first like to express my gratitude for this opportunity to address the Security Council on the important issue of strengthening the capacity of Mali's security forces in the fight against organized crime and terrorism.

The Mali context is plagued by a resurgence of terrorist attacks in the north, and increasingly in the centre of the country, against the Mali's defence and security forces, as well as the forces of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Operation Barkhane and the civilian population. During their recent visit, Council members were able to assess the extent of the consequences of those attacks.

Between 2013 and 26 October this year, direct and indirect attacks injured 387 peacekeepers and killed

86 personnel from MINUSMA, while 172 staff from humanitarian non-governmental organizations were subject to multiple acts of violence, including executions and kidnappings. The Malian forces and the civilian population are also suffering, and just this morning six civilians were killed, and a further 10 injured, by an explosive device in the Gao region.

The situation is equally disturbing from the socioeconomic standpoint. For instance, more than 500 schools in the centre and north of the country remain closed. Criminal groups are experiencing success due to the enormous resources that they are drawing from all types of trafficking, and through substituting the State by providing security and basic social services to the inhabitants of their zones of influence, where the local population are reluctant to cooperate with the Malian defence and security forces or international forces due to fear of retaliation.

The security situation in the subregion is hardly exemplary. It is in that context that, as members are aware, the States of the Group of Five for the Sahel are endeavouring to stand up a Joint Force to fight terrorism and transnational organized crime — at the heart of which the investigation and repression of crime must be better taken into account. In line with resolution 2364 (2017), MINUSMA is striving to support the establishment of reformed defence and security institutions to contribute to the restoration of State authority and the subsequent return of basic social services, as stipulated in the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation.

MINUSMA is also supporting the development of a national strategy to prevent and combat violent extremism and terrorism. That vision must in particular unify all the relevant State and non-State bodies in order to prevent threats linked to terrorism. That explains the importance and urgent need to establish effective local security measures, for which MINUSMA has developed a detailed concept to involve the local population in identifying and resolving its own security challenges.

Whether acting alone or in concert with partners, MINUSMA police support the capacity-building of Mali's structures to combat organized crime and terrorism. At the strategic level, the United Nations has contributed to the drafting of a national strategy to ensure that the gender perspective is taken into account. Through its capacity-building activities, MINUSMA has trained nearly 24,000 security force personnel, including 1,385 in the fight against organized crime and terrorism. The Mission is also engaged in the construction and renovation of infrastructure, the provision of equipment and support for the operational co-location and coordination efforts, particularly the nine specialized units through which MINUSMA provides a range of advice and expertise.

To that end, MINUSMA police continue to support the work of the Malian specialized judicial unit and has made available its scientific and technical police laboratory, while supporting the setting up of a similar national laboratory. The specialized investigations brigade alone handled 71 cases related to terrorism, money laundering, weapon-smuggling and human trafficking.

The implementation of our mandate is fraught with challenges, especially with regard to the process of reforming the security sector, which is slow in coming to fruition. Other challenges lie in the weak governance of the justice, security and defence sectors, the size of the Malian territory, the climate, the porous nature of the country's borders, the multiple obstacles to implementing the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, and the deficits in the deployment of specialized and French-speaking police and armoured vehicles at the disposal of formed police units.

Despite the efforts made thus far, the security and social fabric is continuing to deteriorate seriously in the Sahel. It is therefore my humble opinion that the countries of the subregion of the Sahel and their neighbours would benefit from a more dynamic approach focused on a merging of sectoral strategies.

Before concluding, I would like to recall that MINUSMA police and the various stakeholders strongly support the Malian defence and security forces in carrying out their activities, reform and redeployment, despite the many challenges, as well as constraints in terms of personnel and logistics, facing them.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Yacouba for his briefing.

(*spoke in English*)

I now give the floor to Mr. Monchotte.

Mr. Monchotte (*spoke in French*): I would like to highlight today the good practices developed during the transition by the police component of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), which began on 16 October, in a crucial area of our mandate, namely, the strengthening of the capacity of the Haitian National Police (HNP). That transition period has presented two major challenges for the police component.

The first concerned ensuring the smooth management of the reduction of contingents by 69 per cent — that is to say, going from 951 international police personnel for MINUSTAH to 295 for MINUJUSTH. That was made possible by precise departure planning, based on the innovative structure of a committee dedicated to renewing the contracts of the international police officers.

The second challenge involved the need to adapt our efforts to the new situation in the crucial area of capacity-building for the HNP, including promoting gender equality. In line with the guidelines that I developed with the consent of the Director General of the HNP, another version of the previous model was developed. It was designed so as to ensure the smoothest transition possible to MINUJUSTH and offer a new approach to transferring skills on another scale. Its goal is aimed at establishing cultural and strategic change in the way in which the HNP is supported.

The programme, known as the guidance and support programme, is based on mentoring the senior management of the HNP, in particular in the areas of command and control, operational planning and administrative management. Accordingly, 205 international experts were assigned to an exterior, exo-skeletal unit, which has been attached to the HNP, alongside 150 senior officers of the Haitian police, holding positions of responsibility within general management and the central and departmental directorates, as well as specialized units. The United Nations police officers who were deployed to that programme were selected based on their professional and linguistic skills, as well as their experience in the sought-out areas.

The programme has been implemented in four successive phases according to the deadlines set for the closing of MINUSTAH. A pilot project in one department served as a benchmark for the entire process, and its assessment enabled the monitoring committee to make the necessary changes before deploying it in other departments of the country.cThe subsequent three phases involve its implementation in the nine other departments so as to conclude with the western part of the country, which includes the capital.

In order to encourage participation, buy-in and ownership, a total of 11 round tables with elected officials, magistrates and personnel from both forces were led by the Director General of the Haitian National Police and myself throughout the country. A list of posts and skills was drawn up to inform contributing countries of those developments through the Police Division, as well as to encourage them to provide the appropriate resources to appoint female personnel with the required skills and qualifications where they must be more widely represented. The international police experts were trained with those of the HNP in the preliminary phases and provided with documentation — furnished for the first time through a joint effort by the operational and development pillars of the police component — that spelled out and publicized the various skill sets.

In conclusion, it is clear that that programme is the main focus of the police component, and that that reform, implemented in accordance to the deadlines established pursuant to resolution 2350 (2017), will be able to develop and begin to function optimally only if the police component receives the necessary support for carrying out its work, including, on the one hand, equipment, especially with regard to vehicles, infrastructure and a well-functioning helicopter component, and, on the other, human resources, including the authorized allocation of 295 qualified personnel. Although we have demonstrated that we can do more with less, the road before us remains long.

The President: I thank Mr. Monchotte for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Makotose.

Ms. Makotose: I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the work of the police component of African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

Resolution 2363 (2017) conferred to main priorities to the UNAMID mandate. The first is to protect civilians across Darfur. That includes active patrolling in areas at high risk of conflict and with high concentrations of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and securing IDP camps, adjacent areas and migration routes to ensure a more effective response to threats of violence against civilians. More specifically, we have conducted several thousand patrols in support of the physical

protection of civilians, including more than 2,300 confidence-building patrols to camps for the displaced, and more than 2,600 to respond to the security needs of internally displaced persons, particularly women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside their camps. Additionally, UNAMID police have undertaken more than 500 joint patrols with community policing volunteers and have managed public order during the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

The second mandate priority is establishing a protective environment by engaging communities in community-policing initiatives and supporting the capacity-building of the Sudanese police in Darfur. Community policing volunteers engage with the community on various issues, such as advocating participation in the Government's arms collection programme and urging IDPs and Sudanese uniformed personnel to respect the buffer zone and avoid provocation during presidential visits. With regard to capacity-building for the Sudanese police force, we support the institutional development of the police in line with our joint programme for the rule of law and human rights.

I should also like give a brief update on the reconfiguration of the police component. We have successfully withdrawn from 14 team sites with minimum challenges. We have repatriated two formed police units (FPUs), while the repatriation of contingent-owned equipment remains ongoing. Two FPUs have also been delinked from the military and relocated at two of the six team sites earmarked for the reconfiguration. Some challenges were encountered and are now being managed for the four team sites and the two temporary operating bases that are to be implemented in the second phase. Supervising and monitoring the closed team sites has not been easy, as road and weather conditions have affected our movement. The military numbers and capabilities are different from those of the FPU, which will have an impact on the outputs that will be possible in those delinked team sites.

The UNAMID police component strives to implement our mandate in a gender-responsive way. Under the guidance of the Secretary-General's gender parity strategy, we have advocated for, and are thankful to, Member States to respond to the call for skilled staff. The UNAMID police now includes 20 per cent female individual police officers and four professional staff out of 16, with two more in process. Both males and females are deployed at team sites and in sector headquarters, where they are all engaged in all forms of duties. Females are encouraged to apply for leadership positions, and we have conducted leadership-training workshops to support their confidence-building and to mentor them. The UNAMID Police Women's Network also continues to meet and encourage the empowerment of women. Men are also part of the Network, and I am happy to report that in one sector there are more male than female members.

Those are just a few of the many internal efforts made, as we also assist and advocate for the Sudanese police force in Darfur to mainstream gender. There is greater awareness now, but females remain few in number and none hold senior leadership positions. We are working on some projects that we hope, if supported by donors, will see marked progress. That progress is essential if we are to fully support the prevention and management of conflict-related sexual violence and sexual and gender-based violence in Darfur. The patrols continue to receive information, but some victims are so traumatized and afraid of stigmatization that they do not come out. More advocacy and support for those victims is required.

Women in Darfur remain the main players in economic and livelihood income-generating activities, as many males continue to avoid venturing out for fear of being killed. For their efforts, some women are raped, harassed or abused. More work needs to be done to support those women with safe economic and income-generating activities. Of course, it would be more helpful if the Sudanese police force in Darfur's capacity to investigate and prosecute offenders were enhanced.

For us to receive more female peacekeepers, the national police services must themselves include proportional national representation. Females need additional training and mentoring to build their confidence. More role models are required. And Member States need to second more qualified females for senior positions.

The President: I thank Ms. Makotose for her briefing. I would like to thank all the briefers for their valuable input.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Tachco (United States of America): I thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the Police

Commissioners for their briefings. It is quite inspiring to hear about the work that they do and the challenges that they face every day in completing their mission. It is clear to us that police work is a crucial part of United Nations peacekeeping.

I also want to thank Italy for putting forth the resolution that we adopted today, resolution 2382 (2017). It is truly an important step towards improving the performance of United Nations police.

One of the key elements of our efforts to make United Nations peacekeeping more effective is a clear exit strategy. The ability of a peacekeeping mission to complete its work and depart depends on our collective ability to strengthen the capacity of the State to provide for the safety of its citizens. Alas, as we have seen in many countries with peacekeeping missions, host Governments often not only lack capacity in their security sector institutions, but basic legitimacy with the citizens they are meant to protect and to serve.

In those contexts, we must not only build the capacity of security sector institutions, but redefine the very notion of what a country's military, political and justice institutions are meant to achieve. That requires building an integrated security architecture that seeks to ensure the safety of citizens rather than the longevity of the Governments that lack legitimacy with their own citizens. Police have a crucial role to play in making that vision a reality.

In the recent transition from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, we have seen the essential role that United Nations police play in working with national forces to maintain security and stability while seeking to build the capability of the Haitian National Police. We are hopeful that the new Mission will find a willing and engaged partner in the Haitian Government, as the Mission begins to implement its rule-of-law programme.

Likewise, as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur continues its planned reconfiguration, the role of the mission's police forces will take on even greater importance in building local capacity.

The challenges in Mali are different and great. United Nations police in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali assist Malian authorities in addressing the transnational crime and drug trafficking that fuel terrorist movements in the region, as we saw during our recent Security Council visit to the Sahel. Such assistance and capacity-building is a crucial element, as part of a larger package of assistance, to creating an environment conducive to a solution to the overall conflict.

Police cannot be second-class citizens in United Nations peacekeeping. The United Nations bureaucracy must model the same level of integration among military, police and justice components that we seek to develop in host nations through peacekeeping operations. Police expertise must be consistently integrated into the mandates and decision-making structures of United Nations peace operations — both peacekeeping and special political missions. We welcome this resolution's emphasis on strengthening United Nations police doctrine and its implementation, as well as the call to define clearer standards for personnel, equipment, operations, performance and assistance to host State police services.

We also welcome efforts to collect, manage and analyse data on peacekeeping operational requirements and unit field performance to support performance-based decision-making. Over the past 14 years, the United States has demonstrated its strong commitment to improving the performance of United Nations police by investing more than $40 million to directly train or support 16,000 from 15 countries. We see the partnerships called for in today's resolution as crucial to continuing to build capacity to deploy well-qualified, well-trained police to peacekeeping.

Ultimately, we recognize the essential role of the United Nations police in building the capacity of host nations to ensure the safety of all their citizens and creating the conditions for successful mission conclusions. Today's resolution is an important step towards ensuring that United Nations police are able to help secure lasting and sustainable peace in United Nations peace operations around the world.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): We express appreciation to the Italian presidency for taking the initiative to organize this briefing meeting on the activities of United Nations police forces. We thank Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix for his briefing. We are also grateful to the three Police Commissioners — from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and

the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur — for sharing their field experiences. My delegation has no doubt that we have indeed benefited from their briefings.

We welcome the adoption of resolution 2382 (2017) and commend Italy, as the penholder, for facilitating the negotiations on the resolution, which we hope will contribute to enhancing the role of United Nations police.

Ethiopia recognizes the important role that United Nations police play in promoting stability and long-term development in countries affected by conflict. The landscape where United Nations peacekeepers are deployed today has changed dramatically. The significance of United Nations police has never been as critical as now, in the light of the corresponding change in conflict dynamics, the transformation in the size and complexity of peacekeeping mandates and the evolving trends towards multidimensional peacekeeping. During our visit to the countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel, we got a close-up look at the critical role played by the MINUSMA police component in Mali. We agree with what Commissioner Yacouba said earlier. We also appreciate what the police component of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur has been doing, as highlighted by Police Commissioner Makotose, including the demonstrated gender sensitivity.

United Nations police have become a vital component of peacekeeping, particularly in carrying out mandated tasks related to supporting the capacities of host States' law enforcement institutions. The role that United Nations police components play in facilitating the transitions from peacekeeping to development and peacebuilding is also very crucial. Past and recent experiences, such as in Liberia, as well as in other cases, show the demonstrable success of United Nations police in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In particular, their functions in supporting host States through monitoring and restructuring local police forces, training and advising other law enforcement institutions, as well as restoring and promoting public safety and safeguarding the rule of law, have been indispensable. We believe that national ownership should be the guiding principle of United Nations police when supporting host States in building and developing the capacities of local police forces. National capacity gaps of host States should also inform the composition of United Nations police components, particularly during planning, recruitment, the provision of guidance and training.

Where mandated, the managing of civilian tasks that United Nations police undertake, including in preventing and addressing violence against women and children in the context of conflict and post-conflict situations, also remain very instrumental. In that regard, the deployment of women police officers will have practical and positive impacts on winning the trust of local communities. That is why increasing the participation of women in United Nations peacekeeping is very important. It is a source of pride to note that Ethiopia is one of the leading contributors in that regard.

There is no doubt that peacekeeping mandates related to police activities need to be clear and achievable. Of course, police-contributing countries should ensure that the forces that they deploy in the field — individual police officers, formed police units and specialized police teams — are well trained and equipped in order to implement such mandates.

Furthermore, the Secretariat has a key role to play, including through enhancing the effectiveness of strategic generation of police personnel with better planning, appropriate expertise, language skills and operational readiness. Therefore, strengthening United Nations policing operational coherence within the United Nations system remains very important. In that regard, we believe that triangular cooperation regarding policing among the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat is key to strengthening the effectiveness of United Nations police in peacekeeping.

Finally, Ethiopia has made very modest contributions to United Nations police, including police officers who served in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, which just concluded its mandate and which is now transitioning into MINUJUSTH. I want to conclude by reaffirming Ethiopia's commitment to enhancing its participation and contributions to United Nations police in the years ahead.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting on United Nations policing. We also commend the leadership of the Italian presidency in preparing and negotiating resolution 2382 (2017), which we just adopted.

I express gratitude to Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix for his comprehensive briefing. We are particularly thankful to the Police Commissioners who briefed us today.

As an active police- and troop-contributing country, Ukraine fully supports efforts to enhance the efficiency the United Nations policing in field operations. We note that, despite the challenges faced by the uniformed personnel of the United Nations, United Nations police contingents have a solid record of achievements. For instance, the police component of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) played an important role in ensuring stability and security during particularly difficult times for Haiti. Its contribution to strengthening the capacity of State institutions, in particular the Haitian National Police, is second to none.

The transition to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) testifies both to the successful completion of MINUSTAH's mandate and the readiness to move towards to a new form of the presence of the United Nations in the country. MINUJUSTH should provide crucial support in advancing those important transformations and consolidating the progress achieved. We have full confidence that the new Mission will effectively deliver on the mandated tasks, including further support and development of the Haitian National Police.

Challenges faced by United Nations police components on the ground have evolved significantly and warrant thorough consideration by the Council. On the other side of the globe, asymmetrical threats in Africa remain an issue of particular concern in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). September and October were among the deadliest months for peacekeepers serving in Mali. Ukraine strongly condemns the recent terrorist attacks on MINUSMA personnel.

The ongoing instability in Mali remains one of the main factors causing a spillover of violence into neighbouring countries. In that regard, we remain of the view that security sector reform and the deployment of the Malian police, defence and security forces throughout the country to combat violent extremists and maintain law and order are urgently needed. Given the fact that MINUSMA remains the primary target of terrorist attacks, along with the growing sophistication of such attacks, we are convinced that enhancing the safety and security of police personnel and peacekeepers should be among the top priority tasks of the Secretariat.

United Nations police must be adequately prepared to undertake complex tasks in preventing, mitigating and resolving violent conflicts and contributing to early peacebuilding and reconciliation. In that regard, I would like to highlight several points that we consider important to further improve the efficiency of United Nations policing.

First, Ukraine supports the development of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping, which should provide a solid foundation for strengthening international cooperation on United Nations policing. Further efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Strategic Guidance Framework by all United Nations police components on the ground should be taken as a matter of priority.

Secondly, predeployment and in-mission training for police personnel of United Nations peace operations should be enhanced. The Police Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ukraine, with its predeployment course certified by the United Nations, is one of our contributions to that endeavour.

Thirdly, peacekeeping operations (PKOs) should be provided with resilient mandates and advanced technologies, so as to effectively contribute to ensuring security and public order, including stopping illegal cross-border flows of weapons, criminal elements, foreign terrorist fighters along with mercenaries. PKOs must possess the appropriate means and resources necessary for the effective monitoring and verification of ceasefire agreements and other relevant arrangements, including on disarmament.

Finally, it is important to remain dynamic in registering formed police units' commitments through the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. Timely troop generation and deployment are prerequisites for any mission's success. To that end, triangular cooperation among police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Council should be maintained and further developed. Equally critical is the maximum engagement of women in United Nations peace activities, as was rightly mentioned by Police Commissioner Makotose.

Let me conclude by commending the Police Commissioners who are with us today and their personnel for their dedicated service to the United Nations.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I, too, would like to thank the Italian presidency for convening today's briefing. My thanks also go to our briefers, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, and the Police Commissioners of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

With the adoption of resolution 2185 (2014), the Security Council adopted its first resolution related to activities of United Nations police and underscored that police work makes a valuable contribution to peacekeeping. The growing relevance and importance of police work in peacekeeping operations was manifest in the holding of the first Chiefs of Police Summit, which took place in June 2016, where Ministers of the Interior, Heads of Police and high-level officials from more than 100 Member States met to analyse the evolution of United Nations police work.

Uruguay welcomes today's unanimous adoption of resolution 2382 (2017), which highlights the interest generated on this issue. With this resolution, the Security Council clearly sets out the central role played by United Nations police in peacekeeping efforts and the maintenance of international security. In that regard, the resolution provides strategic guidance to help to strengthen the ongoing efforts of the police, as well as to ensure that police components are able to continue to evolve hand in hand with the reform process of peacekeeping operations. I would therefore like to thank the Italian presidency for having taken the initiative of drafting the resolution. I also thank the other members of the Council for their constructive spirit throughout the negotiations, which made it possible to arrive at an ambitious consensual text.

Uruguay is a long-standing contributing country and is highly committed to United Nations peacekeeping operations. My country has been contributing police to peacekeeping operations since 1991, when we first deployed personnel to the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala. To date we have without interruption contributed to numerous United Nations missions, including those in Mozambique, Timor-Leste, Western Sahara, Angola, Liberia, Côte D'Ivoire and Haiti. Our participation is oriented towards the deployment of individual police officers, who mostly act as instructors and advisers, and in some cases also undertake executive tasks.

As a police-contributing country, Uruguay wishes to express its gratitude for the assessment work of the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in particular its visits to countries that decide to contribute personnel. In that connection, it is essential to continue to improve training for formed police units and police officials, particularly in the area of protecting civilians, taking into account the increasingly complex environments in which peacekeeping operations are deployed.

Also as a police-contributing country, Uruguay meets all United Nations requirements thanks to the training provided by our National Peace Operations Training Institute, where both military and the police components for service with the United Nations are trained. Training is comprehensive, with a special focus on zero-tolerance policies on sexual abuse and exploitation, gender policies and human rights training.

To make this meeting a little more interactive, as you, Mr. President, called for at its commencement, I would like to direct a question to MINUJUSTH Police Commissioner Monchotte. In his judgement, what will be the major challenges facing MINUJUSTH in successfully fulfilling its mandate?

Ms. Schoulgin-Nyoni (Sweden): I would like to begin by thanking Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the Police Commissioners for their valuable briefings to the Security Council today. I also welcome the new United Nations Police Adviser, Mr. Luis Carrilho, and take this opportunity to thank his predecessor, Mr. Stefan Feller, for his services. Let me also add how encouraging and nice it is to see all these Blue Berets here today in the Council. They are fundamental as security providers and capacity-builders. They are essential to the establishment of the rule of law and contribute to long-term sustainable peace.

Landmark resolution 2185 (2014), the first resolution devoted solely to United Nations policing, was adopted by the Council in 2014. With resolution 2185 (2014) as the starting point and baseline, we have today adopted resolution 2382 (2017) on United Nations policing, which builds on its legacy. To further enhance United Nations policing, we can draw on the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report on policing (S/2016/952) and the external review of the Police Division from May 2016. From those solid

foundations, we can continue to enhance the role of policing in preventing conflict, promoting the rule of law and protecting civilians.

Since 1964, Sweden has continuously contributed policing capacity to United Nations peace operations. Swedish police officers are today present in eight United Nations peace operations, and we are currently assessing further contributions. While the challenges within peace operations have evolved greatly over the past 53 years, the value of police components remains clear. Today, police components provide operational support to national policing institutions and to institutional reform. They also support capacity-building and an integrated approach to rule-of-law and security sector reform efforts.

That broad range of functions and activities serves to highlight the unique and central role that United Nations policing plays across the peace continuum, linking and mutually reinforcing the development, peace and security and human rights pillars. Building effective, responsive and representative police services, as a part of functioning rule-of-law institutions, is one important cornerstone of building sustainable peace and stable and resilient societies. For that reason, we must be mindful of including the broader rule-of-law and justice chain in our approach, and also contribute corrections officers, prosecutors and judges to serve alongside police officers in peace operations.

For example, in Liberia, a country where Swedish police and corrections officers have served for over a decade, there is an ongoing joint United Nations Development Programme-United Nations Mission in Liberia rule of law programme in place. Police and other rule-of-law actors are working together there and are supported by the United Nations global focal point on police, justice and corrections to ensure a smooth transition from the outgoing mission to the United Nations country team. That will enable a continuation of efforts to enhance community access to justice and strengthen the capacity of security institutions.

In the Central African Republic, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic's police component have worked together with Malian authorities to establish a rapid response unit for sexual and gender-based violence within the Central African Republic's national police service. By working with national authorities and other United Nations entities, the police component has strengthened the capacity to address sexual and gender-based violence within the country.

As we have said on numerous occasions before in the Council, the mandates of our peacekeeping operations need to be realistic, context-tailored and flexible. That requires high-quality, context-sensitive and inclusive analysis from the Secretariat. Integrating policing advice as part of that analysis needs to be standard practice in the process of developing mandates and in their renewal.

As our briefers underlined today, we need to continue to increase the number of female police officers serving with the United Nations. Doing so would ensure that missions better reflect the communities in which they work and enhance their effectiveness in the delivery of mandates. Missions also need to strengthen their ability to integrate and support the role of women in building peaceful societies.

Sweden is strongly supportive of the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the United Nations peace and security architecture so that the United Nations system is better able to deliver on its overarching mission to prevent conflict and sustain peace. In the light of the unique position of police at the intersection between security and development, police functions will be essential to achieving that objective.

Turning to our briefers today, I would like to pose a few short questions, if I may.

First, in their view, how can policing advice be better integrated into the formulation of mandates so as to better support their activities in the field?

Secondly, in the light of the sharp focus on police and the rule of law of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, I would be interested to hear about Commissioner Monchotte's key reflections so far concerning the transitional work of the Mission.

Twelve thousand United Nations police officers from almost 90 countries are now serving with United Nations missions across the globe. By working with national institutions, they serve and protect communities and ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law. Their work is central to delivering on the mandates agreed by the Council and to supporting national efforts to create prosperous, stable and peaceful societies. We owe them our full support.

Mr. Akylbayev (Kazakhstan): We thank the Italian presidency for convening this important briefing and commend its effective stewardship in preparing resolution 2382 (2017), which we adopted today. We also thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the Police Commissioners for their valuable input. In regard to the topic of today's briefing, our delegation offers the following observations.

First, in light of the overall United Nations reforms, and especially in peace operations, as recommended by the 2015 reports, United Nations policing also demands our attention. To sustain peace, we need to develop clear mandates and directives for police contingents, with strong units for the rule of law, security sector reform, the protection of civilians, human rights and the empowerment of women and youth. Such an approach will lead to the national stability of host countries, with the main focus on capacity-building to prevent new conflicts or the recurrence of existing ones. It is equally important to attract investments for future economic recovery and development.

Second, the United Nations police's main task should concentrate on strengthening national police, justice and corrections institutions, and those that hold them accountable, especially at a time when most mechanisms have been destroyed as a result of conflict. Those processes require the fair and efficient delivery of justice by a sufficient number of competent, ethical and independent officials with adequate training and educational support.

Third, national ownership is imperative, with priorities identified by State authorities and civil society. They should be consistent with the cultural and legal traditions of the host country, yet not in conflict with international norms. Those must operate without causing greater tensions, thereby worsening the situation on the ground.

Fourth, restoring and maintaining peace and stability is a long-term process. It therefore requires close and long-standing consolidation and cooperation among national, regional and international partners, as well as donors and all other relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, academia, civil society and the media.

Fifth, support for the police and other personnel is just as vital to the success of our peacekeeping operations as it is for our military forces, and so we must strengthen the ability of police-contributing countries (PCCs) to speedily prepare and deploy qualified personnel to new missions.

Sixth, a critical issue to resolve is the role of the United Nations police when involved with the military in the protection of civilians. That also calls for areas and modalities of coordination between the police and the military in various overlapping protection situations, based on the type of violence and other community-based variables.

Seventh, we will also need to address broader capability and training gaps by expanding the number of PCCs with high capabilities. It would also be helpful to encourage further political engagement between PCCs and troop-contributing countries to understand mutual responsibilities in various tasks from conflict prevention and resolution to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Finally, Kazakhstan is committed to the United Nations police playing a vital role in promoting lasting stability, peace, security and development, and is willing to explore the ways in which we can engage the capabilities of United Nations policing within peace operations.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): I would like to begin by thanking Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the Police Commissioners of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for sharing their experiences with us today. I also express my heartfelt appreciation to all peacekeepers for their contribution in the face of severe challenges on the ground.

We welcome today's discussion as part of the Council's broader focus throughout the year on making peacekeeping operations as effective as possible through better mandates, capabilities and force generation. Resolution 2382 (2017), which we adopted today, also follows the important work of 2014 on the rule of law, good governance and oversight of security institutions through resolution 2151 (2014), on security sector reform, and resolution 2185 (2014), on policing. We have had a series of discussions on peacekeeping in the Chamber this year. We have had good discussions, and Japan believes that it is time to move from proposals to action. Today's resolution will provide important guidance on the way ahead. All of

the missions represented today offer important lessons and insights.

I would first like to highlight Haiti, since the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) successfully completed its operations last month. The support of MINUSTAH to the Haitian National Police provided a successful example of the role of policing based on national ownership. MINUSTAH adapted to changing circumstances on the ground through community violence-reduction initiatives, while supporting police capacity-building, improved criminal justice procedures, joint patrols and the development of the 2017-2021 strategic plan. The transition to MINUJUSTH also serves as a model for how United Nations peacekeeping missions should adapt as a country's needs change as part of an eventual exit strategy.

The briefing provided by Mr. Yacouba reminds us that the role of police in MINUSMA is vital. Due to the growing security threat in Mali, we tend to focus on the Malian defence and security forces, but security and justice cannot be delivered by them alone. The primary objective of the mandate of MINUSMA is to support the Government's efforts for the gradual restoration and extension of State authority, including the Malian police. Japan has been providing capacity-building assistance to the Malian police, in cooperation with the United Nations police.

Regarding UNAMID, we look forward to the ongoing efforts of the Mission's police to strengthen local police to undertake protection of civilians tasks, as well as for the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons as the Mission's drawdown progresses. We hope that in so doing, UNAMID will continue to set new standards for dealing with gender-related issues.

During its Council presidency in December, Japan hopes to round out this year's discussions by holding a meeting on effective and efficient training and capacity-building based on the report of the Secretary-General mandated by resolution 2378 (2017). The year 2018, in turn, will be the year to translate our various discussions and resolutions into concrete results in the field — a goal shared with the Secretary-General's reforms. Interaction with the wider United Nations membership will be key to our success. Japan looks forward to actively supporting those efforts.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Police Commissioners for their briefings and express my deep appreciation for the efforts and sacrifices that they and police personnel make in peacekeeping operations with a view to promoting peace and stabilization.

Our annual meeting is an important occasion for the Council to avail itself of the expertise and experiences of those operating in the field. It also helps us to better understand the dimensions of the challenges being faced and to develop appropriate policies to elevate United Nations policing. In that context, we welcome the adoption of resolution 2382 (2017) on United Nations police operations, which strengthens the role of United Nations police operations and appropriately recognizes them as a key component of United Nations missions. I commend the role played by the delegation of Italy in drafting this resolution.

Over the past two years, the United Nations has undertaken a comprehensive reform of its peace and security architecture, which has been guided by the review of United Nations peacekeeping operations carried out by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the peace and security architecture of the Secretariat.

The Organization lacks a comprehensive vision to address conflicts while taking the needs, specificities and priorities of host communities and States into account. This has led us to improve the tools available to the Organization, in particular its peacekeeping operations, in order to effectively address the emerging challenges and deal with the complex situations that characterize most United Nations missions.

It goes without saying that United Nations police operations are not excluded from these efforts. The police component plays a key role in implementing United Nations peacekeeping mandates and provides a foundation for the transition from a peacekeeping operation to a United Nations civilian presence. It also contributes to preventing a relapse into conflict by assuming tasks related to the capacity-building of national institutions and enabling host countries to extend security control throughout their territory. Police also ensure security for the holding of elections and they are citizens' first point of contact with the United Nations on the ground. They also play an

important role in building trust in the United Nations within communities.

In this respect, we reiterate our full support for the police component, as reflected in our contributions of police contingents to most United Nations missions and in our status as the third-largest police contributor. In 2016 and 2017, Egypt has contributed to three of the most difficult United Nations missions, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. We have also pledged to deploy additional United Nations police units that have been refitted with Peacekeeping Capability Readiness Systems. In addition, we contribute armoured vehicles to United Nations missions.

I should like to take this opportunity to ask Police Commissioners some questions, without prejudice to our adoption of the highest standards of predeployment training and modern equipment required to carry out the critical tasks entrusted to the police component.

My first question is addressed to Ms. Priscilla Makotose, Police Commissioner of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). In the light of the significant improvements in the security situation in Darfur and the drawdown of UNAMID adopted by the Security Council, what measures is the Mission taking to ensure stability and shore up the efforts of the Sudanese Government during the handover of security responsibilities to local authorities?

My second question is for the Police Commissioner of MINUSMA. In the light of the increasing security threats, which have made MINUSMA the most dangerous Mission, what measures have been taken to improve security at headquarters, in line with the magnitude of these threats? I would also like to inquire about the efforts made to improve community outreach. Given the role of community outreach in ensuring the safety and security of missions, what steps should the Council take to support the mandate of the Mission?

My third and last question is addressed to the Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti. Resolution 2350 (2017) has given the Mission a mandate focused on strengthening rule of law institutions and the Haitian National Police. I would like to know if, in his view, this has contributed to the success of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, and subsequently to that of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, and if it is useful to include building national institutions as a pillar in the mandates of United Nations missions, while taking into account the specificities of each conflict.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to express to the Police Commissioners our deep appreciation for their efforts and sacrifice in the context of peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Allen (United Kingdom): I want to thank our briefers for sharing their analyses with us today, and particularly to welcome Police Commissioner Makotose to the Council. I also want to thank the presidency and the Secretariat for ensuring that we hear women's voices in this Chamber, not just on policing but on all the issues we discuss.

At the outset, I would like to echo my Swedish colleague and to ask all the Blue Berets at today's meeting to pass on to their officers the Security Council's thanks and admiration for their service and bravery. Their work and sacrifice in fragile and post-conflict States is a vital part of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. From Haiti to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from Afghanistan to South Sudan, the men and women of United Nations policing put their lives on the line to protect the most vulnerable as their communities emerge from conflict. Their presence allows people to rebuild their lives, their communities, their livelihoods after the guns have fallen silent, and they help embed longer-term stability by promoting the rule of law, human rights and by helping build capable and accountable security institutions that can stand on their own two feet without United Nations support.

It is because of the important role of United Nations policing that it is so vital that we hold these meetings. We are the organ that tasks those men and women with risking their lives, and so it is important that we hear directly from the police commanders about what more the Council can do to support them and their officers. As we all know too well, the threats they face do not stand

still. If United Nations policing is to stay effective, then we — whether Council members, police-contributing countries or police commanders — need to be ready to respond and reform.

That is why we would have liked to have seen resolution 2382 (2017) go further in terms of reform. There is still much to be done in order to ensure that United Nations policing is as effective and efficient as possible. For example, the United Kingdom wants to see a more flexible approach to the police function — one that adapts according to the situation each mission faces. This should be underpinned by a strong analytical capability that can undertake the continuous analysis necessary to ensure support remains appropriate to needs on the ground.

In parallel, we would like to see the Secretariat make more regular and effective use of specialists with skills relevant to the situation at hand. This would require the introduction of better and more transparent administrative arrangements to absorb and utilize this expertise. Additionally, it is crucial that policing be incorporated into integrated planning and assessment processes, both in New York and in missions, so that the various mission components complement one another.

In this regard, I want to highlight and commend the good work of the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections, a working arrangement between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and others, which provides joint operational country support in the police, justice and corrections areas in post-conflict and other crisis situations. It is an example of the United Nations providing more effective, coherent and coordinated country-level assistance, which we would like to see more of.

I also want to stress the United Kingdom's continuing support for the external review 2016 recommendations. We are keen to see progress being made on these areas, including those referenced in the Secretary-General's report.

Let me conclude with a final reflection. United Nations police are present throughout the continuum of conflict. The Blue Berets are usually the first and the last members of the United Nations family that a local population meet during any intervention or response to a crisis. So to succeed in their mission, across the duration of their deployment officers need to establish a relationship with the population, one founded on trust. That trust is more readily formed if United Nations police officers reflect the diversity of the world that they are sent to protect.

Allow me to close by joining my voice to that of Under-Secretary-General Lacroix in expressing my support for police-contributing countries that are addressing the obstacles preventing more women from entering United Nations police. I also wish to encourage even greater efforts within United Nations police components to consult with communities, including women, and ensure that their views and needs are fully part of their day-to-day work and their reporting to the Council.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China thanks Italy for convening this meeting. We also thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the Police Commissioners of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti and African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for their briefings.

Today, more than 11,000 United Nations police officers are deployed in 11 peacekeeping operations and four special political missions. They perform their duties with devotion in trying and complex situations, and China pays tribute to their spirit of dedication and sacrifice.

The international situation is currently undergoing profound changes; conflicts and disputes are becoming more diverse. The context for United Nations peacekeeping operations and the tasks they set out to achieve are increasingly complex, and United Nations peacekeeping police mandates have been on the rise. The international community should consider in depth the circumstances facing peacekeeping police, their mandates and the way forward, and explore ways they can improve their work. China would like to make the following observations.

First, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of peacekeeping — the consent of the host countries, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence or in fulfilment of the mandate — must be observed. These three peacekeeping principles are the cornerstone of peacekeeping operations and provide an important guarantee for the effectiveness of United

Nations policing. It is important to fully respect the sovereignty of host countries, listen to their views and communicate better with them regarding the duration of deployments, the adjustment of mandates and other such issues. If, as a result of changing circumstances, the host country demands the exit of United Nations police, the Secretariat should develop a clear exit timetable under the political guidance of the Security Council.

Secondly, the mandates of police deployed in peacekeeping operations must be unambiguous, feasible tailored to the context and focused. Mandates are the basis of and guidance for the work of missions and the very foundation of effective peacekeeping operations. Each mission faces different situations and tasks. When designing policing mandates, the situation on the ground, the priority needs of the host countries and the capacity of the police-contributing countries, among other factors, should be considered in an integrated manner. Their mandates should be unequivocal, targeted, highly actionable and subject to timely assessment in the light of dynamic changes, so that their priorities and focus may be constantly adjusted to serve the central objective of the peacekeeping operation concerned. Host countries have the primary responsibility to protect civilians, and the task of peacekeeping police is to assist them in capacity-building and under the leadership of the host countries.

Thirdly, the Secretariat should provide higher quality and more efficient support and guarantees to the peacekeeping police in performing their duties. The Secretariat should take fully into account new contexts and situations encountered by the police in order to make peacekeeping more effective and resilient in the face of complexities, particularly by boosting coordinated actions between the police, civilian and military components of missions. It is important to highlight the safety and security of peacekeeping employees. Strengthened coordination with police-contributing countries (PCCs) and host countries improves early warning capabilities and the internal sharing of information so as to raise the level of safety and security across the board.

Fourthly, we must attach greater importance to the role of PCCs. Troop-contributing countries (TCCs) and PCCs are the main players undertaking peacekeeping operations. It is imperative to improve communication between the Security Council, the Secretariat and TCCs and PCCs, fullyleverage the role of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and enable TCCs and PCCs to have a greater voice. Adequate attention should be given to the needs of developing countries as PCCs, and they should be encouraged to boost their capacity through bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

China is the largest PCC among the permanent members of the Security Council. Chinese peacekeeping police officers have earned many accolades from various parties thanks to their diligence and excellence. China began sending police officers to United Nations peacekeeping operations in 2000; since then, we have sent some 26,000 police officers to missions in Timor-Leste, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Haiti and elsewhere. At present, more than 150 Chinese police officers are serving missions in South Sudan, Cyprus and Afghanistan.

China is now in the process of fully implementing the commitments made by the Chinese leader at the 2015 Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping to further support United Nations peacekeeping operations, including by taking the lead in the creation of a standby formed police unit and training peacekeeping police officers for other countries. Two of China's standby peacekeeping police units are already formally registered with the United Nations peacekeeping standby mechanism, parts of which are already at the rapid-deployment level.

China stands ready to work with the international community and make its positive contribution to the development of United Nations peacekeeping policing and the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Inchauste Jordán (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Bolivia thanks Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix and the Police Commissioners of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for their briefings.

In most cases, the term "United Nations peacekeeping forces" is synonymous with military troops. Nevertheless, police components also play a key role in the maintenance of security at three levels in particular: protection through dialogue and commitment, protection against physical violence and protection through the creation of a secure environment. The roles of the United Nations police in the areas of protection through dialogue and commitment and protection through the creation of a secure environment

are well-established in practice and involve advice, building the capacities of and strengthening the local police, and access to justice and Government institutions. However, there is still a lack of clarity regarding the role of the United Nations police with respect to the physical protection of civilians.

The United Nations defines police work as a support function of Government, responsible for the prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes, the protection of persons and property, and the maintenance of public order and security. In this sense, exactly one year ago we received the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations policing (S/2016/952) containing 14 recommendations on police work. Within the framework of resolution 2185 (2014), it is clear that police forces for international peace and security are of increasing importance.

The Secretary-General's approach allows us to identify different priorities and measures to strengthen the work of police contingents deployed to the various peacekeeping missions in order to create a coherent and adaptable system that is capable of dealing with emerging conflict and post-conflict situations, in addition to contributing to planning transition processes and the development of integrated approaches to the rule of law in countries where they carry out their activities.

On the other hand, as stated by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in its Guidelines on Police Operations, the United Nations police can engage in a wide range of activities, including, inter alia, advice, reform, restructuring and strengthening of police institutions, training and instruction, assistance in electoral processes, disarmament and demobilization, community-based policing, patrol border management, public information and education.

Bolivia believes that the multidimensional nature of missions requires United Nations police officers to cooperate closely in all areas of conflict and at all levels, including through interaction at the local level with military, political, humanitarian and human rights sectors and other civilian components, but above all by working closely with the host State in strict respect of the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

We welcome the Organization's efforts to ensure that countries contributing police contingents meet the required standards. However, challenges remain in the areas of deployment and capacity-building as well as specific tasks. We are confident that such difficulties can be overcome by improving performance management on the ground for police and civilian components as well as military ones. The best way to manage resources, human, financial or material, is to focus on improving assessment and planning capacities and enhancing the ability to provide timely information, full communication and leadership, thereby effectively strengthening and operationalizing the work of the Police Division and the Strategic Force Generation and Capability Planning Cell of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

In the context of peacebuilding, it is also crucial to ensure that the work of the United Nations police is strengthened in terms of the transition and transfer of full responsibility to host States' police forces as well as in relation to missions' exit strategies. In that regard, as a Latin American country, we think it is important to highlight the Haitian National Police's development plan for 2012 to 2016, which was implemented by the police component of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). This plan focused on improving the capacity and operational readiness of the Haitian National Police in the areas of crime prevention and response and activities related to law enforcement, which not only helped to maintain stability during the 2016 elections, but also made a valuable contribution to the process of closing MINUSTAH and transitioning it to MINUJUSTH.

We must strengthen our efforts to incorporate a gender perspective into the United Nations police, thereby affirming, ensuring and encouraging women's equitable participation both in peacekeeping operations, in accordance with resolution 2242 (2015), and in peace processes, by playing an active role in prevention, mediation and dialogue, with the aim of arriving at solutions that reflect equality and contribute to post-conflict reconstruction. In that regard, I would like to ask the Commissioners what efforts and actions are being undertaken to improve women's participation in force components, in particular MINUJUSTH, which consists only of a police component. We also reaffirm our full support to the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse by members of peacekeeping missions.

In conclusion, Bolivia reaffirms its support for and commitment to peace operations and would like to thank United Nations staff and the personnel from the troop- and police-contributing countries for their

work, men and women who risk their lives every day to build lasting and sustainable peace in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's meeting on police issues in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions. We are grateful to Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the Police Commissioners of the United Nations missions in Mali, Haiti and Darfur, for their helpful briefings. We take this opportunity to once again express our gratitude to all United Nations police peacekeepers for their selfless efforts.

The work of the United Nations police in our current peacekeeping initiatives is extremely important. They deal with tremendous challenges and have to work in increasingly difficult conditions. Besides helping to ensure public order, they also support national Governments in their efforts to protect civilians and play an important auxiliary role in post-conflict reform of law-enforcement institutions and national capacity-building for host States. We believe that because they are providing that assistance on behalf of the entire international community, the police, like peacekeepers, are obliged to comply scrupulously with Security Council mandates, the Charter of the United Nations and the core principles of peacekeeping.

A key part of effective mandate fulfilment is the establishment of constructive, trusting relations with the host State that take its priorities into account. It is the principle of national ownership that guarantees success. One can hardly call it effective international support if a mission's protracted presence ultimately results merely in substituting the efforts of United Nations police for those of the local force. In providing assistance to States it is equally critical to take national specifics into consideration. Attempts to apply a universal approach to reforming an area as important and sensitive as a society's law-enforcement structures inevitably ends in the proposed solutions being rejected.

In order to help peacekeepers deal effectively with the challenges they face, especially when additional factors complicate conflicts further, they must get the technical and staffing support they need. The Russian Federation, as a police-contributing country, has continued to expand its contribution to United Nations peacekeeping activities and to deploy personnel with relevant skills. Since 1992, more than 500 officers from branches of Russia's Ministry of the Interior have become United Nations police officers. Since the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit in June 2016, the number of Russian United Nations police officers has increased by more than 50 per cent. They are currently engaged in operations in South Sudan, Kosovo, Haiti and Cyprus, and 20 per cent of them are women. Women's participation in policing in Russia itself is also growing steadily.

Russia has also been striving to do its bit to improve the effectiveness of police peacekeepers' work, including that of non-Russian police. Since 2000, the United Nations-certified peacekeeping training centre of the Interior Ministry's All-Russian Institute for Advanced Training in Domodedovo, near Moscow, has trained more than 350 foreign police peacekeepers, including commanders from more than 50 countries. Russia has unique experience in vocational training for peacekeepers and we are ready to share it.

Russia supported the Council's adoption today of resolution 2382 (2017). However, we have to point out that the work on the draft resolution was extremely difficult. The Security Council took great pains to ensure that the document did not politicize the work of the United Nations police and that it focused on concrete issues, based on the premise that every element of the United Nations system is responsible for a clearly defined area of issues. We believe it is unacceptable to put a subjective interpretation on the norms of international humanitarian law, particularly where the protection of civilians is concerned. Under no circumstances should peacekeepers, including police, become a party to a conflict or take any side, and they should certainly not be put in a position of using force against a host State.

The police unquestionably play an important role in United Nations efforts to prevent relapses into conflict within the framework of their mandates in each individual mission, but it is difficult to conceive what their potential contribution could be to the Secretary-General's prevention and mediation efforts before conflicts break out and missions are deployed. We support the importance of ensuring an ongoing dialogue between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries on every aspect of peacekeeping operations, including mandate planning and formulation.

We believe firmly that discussions on the most difficult issues, particularly police organizational issues, should be transparent, and that the most suitable platforms for them are the existing Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, on the latter of which all troop-contributing countries are represented. No external reviews can supplant intergovernmental discussions of police issues. In that context, we welcome the forthcoming briefing by heads of police components to be held in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Mrs. Gueguen (France) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank Italy for organizing this meeting on the role of the police in peacekeeping operations, which has enabled us to adopt resolution 2382 (2017), the second Security Council resolution pertaining to the police, three years after resolution 2185 (2014). I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the heads of the police components here for their briefings today.

I would like to pay tribute to the approximately 11,500 men and women who are currently deployed as police officers in peacekeeping operations. Whether they are from civilian or military national security forces, they carry out their mandates in what are sometimes extremely difficult security conditions as they labour to ensure that peace is maintained and civilians are protected.

Today peacekeeping operations are deployed in increasingly complex, varied and evolving circumstances, and police components are a major asset in our response to them, as the resolution we have just adopted emphasizes. In that regard, I would like to discuss three priorities.

First, police forces should continue to play a central role in the protection of civilian populations, and the success of that depends on close contact between the police deployed to operations and the people at risk. Civilians, especially the most vulnerable among them such as women and children, must be able to rely on our police and gendarmes to protect them from human rights abuses and violence and ensure that those accused of such crimes are brought to justice and held accountable for their actions. In the event of imminent violence, it is the job of the United Nations police to provide affected populations with the protection they need. Besides that, it is through their commitment to communities and the quality of their contact with the people and local authorities that these United Nations gendarmes and police officers build the trust that is essential for effective protection, as has been the case in Mali with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). For police components to carry out these duties effectively, it is vital to ensure that they are working in full coordination with their peace operation's other components, especially the military and human rights divisions. Their ability to respond together depends on their ability to plan, analyse and act together.

That brings me to my second point, which is that the police component plays a fundamental role in establishing lasting peace. Establishing and training domestic security forces that respect human rights, ensure equal treatment for all and serve the people are preconditions for long-term stability. The police components of United Nations missions contribute to that through support and training, in accordance with the rule of law and United Nations due-diligence human rights policies. That effort can be seen in the Central African Republic with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, whose formed police units are helping to protect civilian populations in Bangui and beyond and to build the national internal security forces' capacity and strengthen Government authority. The success of that commitment depends on identifying the needs of the host State in detail and on appropriate planning, enabling an effective police response. In the transitional situation in Haiti, the Council has recognized the significant added value of using police for restoring peace with its establishment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti.

Thirdly, for police components to be able to help to resolve conflicts, they must be fully adapted to the needs of peacekeeping operations, a task that presents several challenges. The first requirement is their capacity for force generation. To be effective, a police force must be large enough, as well as well equipped and well trained. The ability to deploy an adequate police component quickly remains a major challenge, and we must all work together to respond to it.

The second challenge is police-force composition. We support efforts to deploy more women to the police components of peacekeeping operations. Women are a guarantee of the link between the United Nations

police and missions and highly fragile populations. They are at the forefront in combating and preventing sexual violence. They are an example for the future and a model for the people we protect. We also support efforts in the area of language. The capacity to maintain ties to the host population depends on an ability to establish and deepen a relationship of trust and mutual respect over time and with the support of local authorities. France does that by training deployed police and gendarmes in French.

The third issue, which seems central today, is that of technical competence. In order to deal with the many types of crime they encounter on the ground, investigations aimed at fighting impunity require complex police techniques. Because of that, mission police components must have the specialized technical knowledge needed to combat sexual violence or transnational organized crime, for example. France is firmly committed to that approach. For instance, the European Gendarmerie Force will shortly deploy a team within MINUSMA to combat organized crime and terrorism composed of Italian carabinieri, staff of Spain's Guardia Civil, Portugal's Republican National Guard and soldiers of the French National Gendarmerie.

The next meeting of police and gendarmerie heads, to be held in the spring of 2018, will be an opportunity for reflection on the role of the police within the United Nations. It should help us examine our doctrinal and technical choices, while offering an analysis of the future of police components. In that regard, I would like to hear the views of our briefers on the role of police personnel in building lasting peace. In other contexts they have all promoted the concept of sustainable peace through the prevention of violence, the restoration of host-country policing capabilities and national reconciliation. Can they tell us what they have learned from their experience? It would be particularly helpful to get a better understanding of the constraints they have encountered and the imperatives they have had to take into account in carrying out their actions. I thank them in advance for that.

Mr. Dieng (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): Senegal would like to thank the Italian delegation for taking the initiative to hold today's important meeting, giving us the opportunity to exchange views directly with the commanders of the police components of peacekeeping operations. We are also grateful to Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and the heads of the police components of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for their informative briefings. Senegal would especially like to thank the commanders and their troops and to express its gratitude for their outstanding performance in complex and challenging environments.

Today, the importance of the growing role of the police in peace operations is well established. Their place and role have undergone many changes since 1960. While traditionally they was used for monitoring, observing and producing reports, today they have become key players in multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions. An example of that is their work in protecting civilians in situations of internal insecurity such as that of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. The United Nations police also play a central role in building the capacities of host countries' security forces. For example, formed police units and individual police officers have jointly responded to many needs in Haiti.

In order to take on full responsibility for those changes in its functions, police components have had to adapt their structure and organization and revise their employment processes and doctrines again and again, and numerous Security Council resolutions and assessments have been introduced and implemented in order to increase their operational capacity and role in supporting countries in crisis. It is against that backdrop that a complete review of the structure, functions and capacity of the Police Division was conducted, in line with the report of the High-level level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) (see S/2015/446). It must be underscored that, despite those commendable efforts, much remains to be done to overcome the challenges with which we are all familiar — as listed in the HIPPO report and highlighted by the Security Council in resolution 2185 (2014). Resolution 2382 (2017), which we adopted today at the initiative of the Italian delegation, is part and parcel of the efforts to address the current challenges faced by the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

To ensure that our meeting is interactive, as requested by you, Mr. President, I would like to ask a few questions. My first question will be directed to all the Police Commissioners who spoke at today's briefing.

With regard to capacity-building for host-country security forces, we know that communications play a key role. Quite often, however, police training officers do not speak the official language of the host countries. What measures are Police Commissioners taking to address that challenge?

I also have a question for the MINUSMA Police Commissioner. Undoubtedly, the environment in which the Mission operates requires reliable equipment and well-trained personnel. What are the main challenges for police units in combating and preventing crime in those countries?

With regard to MINUJUSTH, the evaluation report of the formed police units notes that the Division for Policy, Evaluation and Training has issued reservations about the operational capacity of formed police units made up entirely of women. What are the strengths and weaknesses of such units? As the evaluation team has recommended, would it not make more sense to have mixed-gender formed police units, given that almost all troop- and police-contributing countries have mixed-gender units at home?

While not a question, I would like to comment on the briefing by Ms. Makotose, whom I thank for her valuable contribution to today's meeting. I take this opportunity to announce that, as the leading police-contributing country, with seven units in five peacekeeping operations, Senegal intends to provide the United Nations with 26 additional female police officers. Those officers have already passed tests that were held in Dakar in August under the All-Female Selection Assistance and Assessment Team Training programme, which was financed by the Government of the United States. That effort provides some insight into the importance that Senegal attaches to strengthening the role of women in peacekeeping operations, and in police activities in particular.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Italy.

At the outset, I would like to thank all delegations for their constructive collaboration in adopting resolution 2382 (2017) today. I am also very grateful to Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and to the Police Commissioners of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for their briefings. They confirmed the central role that police units currently play in peace operations throughout the world.

As described by Police Commissioner Yacouba, United Nations police components in Mali assist the Malian authorities in the fight against transnational organized crime, including illegal trafficking in weapons and in persons. Such activities are very often connected to terrorist organizations, providing them with several sources of financing. The support United Nations police can provide to local authorities in the fight against those criminal networks and in the disruption of trafficking networks is crucial for reducing a major source of instability in the Sahel and in the entire Mediterranean region.

As Police Commissioner Monchotte explained, the police component in Haiti is now at the core of the peacekeeping Mission, strengthening the rule of law by mentoring local police. The Mission in Haiti can be an example of how United Nations police capacity-development efforts can assist in preventing a relapse into conflict, and leave behind an enduring legacy of sustainable peace. It is an important test case and a possible future model for the successful transition and eventual exit of peacekeeping operations.

I would also like to thank Police Commissioner Makotose for her meaningful insight into how the operational effectiveness of UNAMID was strengthened by making the activities of the United Nations police components more gender-sensitive. That is an important step forward.

Today's briefing confirmed that the United Nations police contribution is the key to achieving our common objective of smarter and more cost-effective peace operations that are able to bring about sustainable and long-lasting peace. That, by the way, is our common goal in support of reforming the United Nations system as envisaged by the Secretary-General. We believe it is therefore necessary to strengthen United Nations police. In that regard, I would like to recall the critical role of the United Nations Standing Police Capacity, located at the Global Service Centre in Brindisi, in providing peace operations with readily available police expertise. I would like to suggest four brief points for further consideration.

First, we must recognize the contribution of the United Nations police in preventing conflict and sustaining peace, and, consequently, in including

policing as an integral part of the mandates of peace operations. That would support the focus on prevention.

Secondly, we should strengthen the role of United Nations police in protecting civilians and preventing and addressing sexual and gender conflict-related violence and violations and abuses against children, including by providing assistance and support to local authorities. In that regard, predeployment training for Blue Helmets is key to providing the necessary assistance and to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

Thirdly, we should provide guidance on what is required to improve accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in the performance of United Nations police, by defining clear standards for the provision of personnel, equipment and assistance to host-State police. In that regard, the role of police-contributing countries is of paramount importance. We must enhance triangular consultation and cooperation between police-contributing countries and the Secretariat.

Fourthly, we completely share the view that an increased number of women in police forces will improve the performance of United Nations police units. I encourage Member States to do more to contribute to that objective, starting with recruiting a greater number of women at the national level.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the women and men serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions, and in particular those who have lost their lives over the years. We must spare no effort to improve the safety and security of our Blue Helmets by providing them with the necessary equipment and technology that can save their lives.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

Since there were several questions for the Police Commissioners and Under-Secretary-General Lacroix, I would like to turn the floor over them to respond to the questions posed and to make other remarks.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lacroix.

Mr. Lacroix: I would again like to thank you, Sir, the Italian presidency of the Security Council and all members of the Council for holding today's debate, as well as for adopting resolution 2382 (2017). It is a clear signal of the Security Council's interest in United Nations police activities in the area of peacekeeping. I will be very brief so as to allow our colleagues from the field to respond to the various questions posed to them.

I think that today's debate has highlighted the increasingly vital role of police in peacekeeping — both in providing security and complementing the military component, as well as in contributing to the protection of civilians, in partnership with other components in our operations — but also the vital contribution of our police colleagues in strengthening local capacity in the crucial area of rule-of-law institutions. Obviously, the strengthening of the rule of law and institutions is a precondition for restoring lasting peace and providing our peacekeeping operation with the possibility to exit.

The question asked by the representative of Sweden was related to how the police dimension might be further integrated within mandates conferred on us by the Security Council. I believe that the rationale behind the representative's question also involves how those police activities could be increasingly and better supported by the Security Council. I would like to highlight the importance of the continuous interest of the Security Council in the United Nations police. As I said, that interest has been demonstrated today by this meeting and the adoption of resolution 2382 (2017), but we are keen on having further interaction with the Council. Moreover, we look forward to the Council's consideration and discussion of the reports that we will provide, specifically the report to be submitted pursuant to resolution 2382 (2017), on a different set of very important issues.

I would also like to say that the challenges associated with and the need to improve United Nations police peacekeeping are in many ways similar and, indeed, complementary to the challenges and the demands of other components. We look forward to the Security Council's feedback on how we perform not only in responding to those challenges, but in further integrating the activities of various components, while ensuring adequate cooperation in the field. A number of past reports of the Secretary-General have already addressed the issue of police components. I believe that we should look to the Council to provide us not only with consistent monitoring of and support for our efforts, but also with encouragement to Member States to support those efforts in crucial areas, such as scaling up performance, increasing and improving training and capacities, particularly as our police component is dealing with activities and issues that require very technical and specific capacities.

Some of those were addressed and mentioned earlier during this meeting, including working to increase the integration of police component activities with other components; partnering with other institutions and organizations, such as regional and subregional organizations, as well as the European Union; and cooperating with police-contributing countries not only to increase the percentage of women in our police contingent, but also to better address the role of women in peacekeeping processes in our operations. The language issue was mentioned by some representatives; it is a crucial issue, particularly with regard to policing, because the United Nations police is all about interacting with the population.

I would like to add that that it is equally important that our expectations vis-à-vis the Security Council are met in terms of mandates being adequately provided with the required resources to ensure that we can fulfil the missions conferred upon us by the Security Council, including policing, as well as the other activities. I believe that it is also important to encourage States Members to support our work in policing, not only by entering into partnerships with police-contributing countries with a view to helping them improve their capacities, but also by encouraging them to continue and possibly increase their support to programmatic funding for capacity-building. As members of the Council are aware, our police activities also depend on that type of programmatic funding, which is very important with regard to our work in developing several key policies, several of which were mentioned today.

In conclusion, I would like to say that today's briefing is particularly timely for many reasons, one of which is that it provides us with the opportunity to welcome Police Commissioner Luis Carrilho. I would like to say before the Council that we are delighted to see him join the peacekeeping family, but I would also like to pay tribute and very warmly thank Commissioner Stefan Feller for the his outstanding work at the head of the Police Division.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Yacouba.

Mr. Yacouba (*spoke in French*): I believe that Mr. Lacroix has addressed the crux of the questions. I will therefore answer some of the more specific questions.

The first question concerns the attacks and the issue of explosive devices confronting the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). It is an issue of major concern to the countries of MINUSMA and host countries, as well as for Headquarters in New York. We have held several video-teleconferences to address the issue, and a working group was established to reflect on how to avoid the damage and loss.

In that regard, the first issue concerns training, including predeployment training whereby all formed units — whether formed police or military units — are provided with information regarding asymmetric attacks, especially those involving explosive devices and mines. Above all, they must undergo complementary training under the auspices of United Nations Mine Action Service. The importance of such training has been witnessed on the ground, where, despite the high number of incidents that have been reported, many deaths have been avoided simply because people have followed the proper protocol. Even now, in cases where accidents have often occurred, the latter have been attributed to a failure to follow protocol according to instruction. There is therefore a problem concerning command, which has been identified, and I believe that corrective measures have been implemented at the force and police component levels.

There is also the issue of passive protection measures. I am speaking of attacks on camps and convoys. Equipment has been scaled up, but unfortunately some units lack the equipment especially designed for such attacks. We have seen armoured vehicles equipped with armour that fails to protect them against mines. Headquarters has drawn the attention of contributing countries to the problem on the ground so that measures can be taken to address those issues.

We are therefore not only focusing on raising awareness, but also on the intelligence dimension. The latter entails conducting an investigation whenever there is an incident involving an explosion. In each police unit, we have an investigative branch that takes over the necessary tasks after an explosion. MINUSMA carries out an internal investigation, and the Malian authorities carry out their own. Regardless of whether the attacks target MINUSMA or Malian personnel, according to our mutual agreement, we exchange information.

Accordingly, we have established a criminal database, so that we can trace explosive devices and try to identify who laid them and where they came from. With broader cooperation in the subregion and with enhanced inter-service cooperation, we hope that we

will be able to trace them to their source and cut the supply line. That is, in essence, one of the first problems.

The second aspect is the lack of trust between the population and the security defence forces. That is indeed a major obstacle, because if that is absent, then the police, the gendarmerie and the national guard — who are supposed to protect the population — do not in fact enjoy its trust. That leads to an underlying problem that can be addressed only through security sector reform in order to foster trust between the security forces and the people. And to do that, the Malian forces must comprise the entire range of national viewpoints.

Additionally, the forces must be accountable before the law. We must do away with impunity, corruption and other aspects that the people find contemptible within the security and defence forces. They are fully aware that we have, with their assent, created a programme of local policing that seeks to make sure that the local population is kept at the core. Therefore, security cannot carried out against the population; rather, the people themselves contribute to their own security and to the implementation of development projects.

We explain to them that this is about a virtuous circle. We carry out awareness-raising campaigns to explain our mandate to the population. We explain our role and mandate to the people, as well as the need to work with the Malian forces. They will generally share their concerns and, I believe, the Government has agreed to participate in this local policing approach. On 4 October, at the national police level, at the fifty-seventh anniversary of the creation of the police, in front of the entire Government and Parliament, the Government committed itself to the local policing approach.

What will it accomplish? The population is now suffering from the lack of trust in the Malian security forces, as it is the extremisst that impose their law and way of life. But with the joining of the two structures, they will be able to act against the negative elements — the extremists.

On the question of the vision for the future, I think that Mr. Lacroix has answered it. I wanted to add that it should include a republican police force that is accountable before the law.

With regard to the third question, the aspect of communication has been addressed. I only wanted to add that, at the level of formed police units, there are units that patrol and escort humanitarian workers but do not speak the local languages. Through the recruitment of local interpreters, the staff of the formed police units — if, for example, they speak Arabic — must learn a local language as well in order to be able to better interact with the local population. In any given community, an English or French speaker will have to learn the local language to interact with the people and gain their trust.

Another key aspect when it comes to communication is ensuring that people understand our mission. When they do not, they are reluctant to engage with us. We regularly carry out awareness-raising campaigns to explain our mandates. I would say that in Gao, for example, we have been fairly successful in that regard. At a certain point, we even had people in Gao who wanted to take the law into their own hands and set up prisons. Once they understood our role, with the support of all stakeholders — the entire community, including women and elders — they themselves abandoned the actions they intended to take. They understood the relevance of our role.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Commissioner Monchotte.

Mr. Monchotte (*spoke in French*): The new approach we have set up is of course aligned with view towards an exit strategy, as the mandate of resolution 2350 (2107) gives us a time limit. By targeting high-level leadership, there was an attempt to force ownership and to announce a departure.

Additionally, the new approach should be understood in the context of the European Gendarmerie Force, which is perfectly integrated. Moreover, coordination and integration is generally carried out through the programme budget of the global focal point for justice, human rights and correctional justice. It is an extremely positive aspect that enables us to contribute in a very pragmatic way to the development of the Haitian National Police.

With respect to the challenges I see for the future, I can anticipate two specific challenges for the Haitian National Police. First of all, there is the non-politicization of the police, as that would be extremely damaging for the general atmosphere in the country and its stability, which would be called into question. The second challenge is the budgetary interest of the Government in the police by availing it of the means to act and by honouring the commitments adopted on 5 July by the Prime Minister in his capacity as President of

the Superior Council of the National Police, when he validated the 2017-2021 strategic development plan that we prepared jointly, in which Haiti must contribute at least 45 per cent to the overall five-year budget.

Other challenges that I see for us are ensuring the best experts so as to ensure that skills transfer and capacity-building occur in the best possible conditions. To that end, we must have the necessary equipment — be they vehicles, infrastructure or infrastructure adjustments — for the working conditions of our international police, above all a helicopter unit to carry out our joint operations with the police. Our mandate requires that we provide operational support to the Haitian National Police in the territorial planning of the country. That element is crucial.

As for sustainable peace, beyond the purely economic aspects of political stability in the technical and police arena, it is absolutely clear that the police must address the population equitably, respect human rights and use force with care. These are fundamental prerequisites. That is why we participate in and support operations as part of the mandate. Human rights training for law enforcement units is a critical part of technical support.

I would also like to underscore the role of the General Inspectorate, which we support with experts alongside its senior management. That was implemented under the mandate for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) with approximately 15 United Nations police deployed in the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate must carry out investigations of allegations of improper conduct or the use of excessive force, whether in police or peacekeeping operations. The General Inspectorate considers approximately 600 cases annually.

With respect to the transition — a question was asked in this respect by the representative of Sweden — what enabled it to take place in a smooth and harmonious manner was a vision that I would say was crafted in late 2016. We began to plan well in advance, so that in February 2017, when the strategic evaluation mission arrived along with Mr. Ladsous, we were able to make proposals relating to the post-MINUSTAH period and to outline our support and advice programme. This planning and preparation for the future took place in close cooperation with the local police, without whom none of this would have been possible. The work was thus carried out in a harmonious manner with a partner that is fully accepting of this new landscape.

What further contributed to the stabilization of MINUSTAH, as I observed based on my own experience, was above all the fact that there was support for the electoral process to be fully carried through. The police component played an important role by deploying more than 85 per cent of its force during the two rounds of the presidential elections. This was also done jointly with the Haitian National Police, which was absolutely critical. In the presence of the highest authorities of the State, we signed a joint security plan that enabled the Haitian National Police to make clear progress in terms of operational planning and to generate a coherent and realistic operational framework at the national level. This was a first for the Haitian National Police.

Turning to the promotion of gender equality in the police component, first we created a listing of posts in the framework of our new approach so that contributing countries could see what posts needed to be filled, with priority given to female personnel. At my headquarters, I have two gender equality adviser posts reserved for women. We are currently a very small structure, with the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti. I have also maintained a women's network, and I would stress here that advisers to this network have a counterparts in the Haitian National Police, which provided an excellent example of how to promote gender equality within a police force. We are continuing these efforts every day.

With respect to the police division and human resources, arrangements were made that included the authorization to reduce the duration of the mandate and deployment for women, so as to facilitate their joining the Mission.

Turning to communications, at the request of our partner the Haitian National Police, we have stressed linguistic issues, which are very important. Indeed, the proper transfer of skills and capacity-building is best carried out in a context of *affectio societatis*, that is to say, a trust-based relationship between mentor and mentee, which works best when a common language is used, in this case French or Creole. This is noted in the profiles that have been set up, so that contributing countries, in addition to providing female personnel, can ensure that such personnel are French- or Creole-speaking. When candidates are put forward,

we conduct interviews and make our selection with a view to securing French-speaking experts.

In conclusion, with respect to joint law-enforcement units, I can attest to the fact that I have benefited from this undertaking and would be fully in favour if it were to continue.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Monchotte for his briefing.

(*spoke in English*)

I now give the floor to Ms. Makotose.

Ms. Makotose: I thank the Council for having recognized the important work of the police in peacekeeping and would like also to acknowledge the Council's important role in promoting peace and our work. Its words of encouragement today and the understanding and guidance shown are well received, and we will be using them to inform and guide our operations.

To the question that was posed by the representative of Egypt, on the improvement of the security situation in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), I wish to acknowledge that there has indeed been an improvement, especially in conflict-related clashes, but my concern as Police Commissioner is the fact that most internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in the camps, and their major concern when we talk to them is the issue of security. This speaks to the issue of trust between the IDPs and the security institutions; they remain in the camps because they feel a little bit insecure. We feel that we still have a role in building this trust, and we hope that as we continue to implement our mandate, this trust will be built.

Nonetheless, we have been undertaking a number of strategies to ensure that in the event of our exit there is sustainability and the rule of law. Chief among this is that we started engaging in train-the-trainer programmes under the capacity-building mandate. We also have received a very interesting and exciting request from the Sudan Police Force to help it develop its standing operating procedures, its code of conduct and a number of other institutional frameworks. We believe that these are important to ensure sustainability upon the exit of UNAMID.

We are also actively involved in community policing, and we have a very vibrant community-policing volunteers programme as well as very vibrant community-safety committees, which discuss crime and how to overcome some of the criminal challenges that the people face.

We are also working with the United Nations country team and mainly with the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UN-Women to build capacity for the continued monitoring of the performance of the Sudan Police Force once UNAMID has exited from Darfur.

We are also happy to have seen the spread of the Sudan Police Force into almost all of the team sites that are operational, and we are pleased that that Force is now in existence in most of these areas, with the exception of about three. We are still working to get them into those areas.

We would like the support of the Council for the joint programme on the rule of law and human rights, which is aimed at overseeing the resourcing and implementation of a sustainable criminal-justice system. It has been hit by a lack of funding, but we believe that this is the programme that is going to drive sustainability and the capacitation of both of the Sudan Police Force in Darfur and, indeed, all other criminal-justice institutions.

In response to the question from the representative of Bolivia, on the greater participation of women, I highlighted some of the relevant issues, but let me just touch on a few more. We are advocating for the recruitment, training and deployment of the Sudan Police Force in the deep field. It is a bit challenging, because it is really still at a very low point. We are hoping that our continuous engagement will certainly bring us some way towards our goal. We have developed a concept note to the effect that we are also seeking funding so as to recruit more women, train them and then deploy them in the deep field.

We have established a women's network in the Sudan Police Force as a vehicle for women to participate in their empowerment. We insist that female members of the Sudan police force participate in all our meetings. As we continue to enhance the presence of female peacekeepers deep in the field, we are still remodelling. I hope that the Sudan police force will also take note and copy what we are doing. I have also already had a chance to engage with Walis and governors, and they are beginning to accept the concept of recruiting more female police officers.

There was also a question from the representative of France on the lessons learned from our experiences. I would say that the situations in the conflict and post-conflict areas that we operate in are hard and desperate. The peace process, in my experience, has been very slow, and sometimes it is very frustrating. A lot of commitment and consistency is required to achieve stability and peace; continuous engagement with hosts, the internally displaced persons population and community leadership builds the necessary relationships that then contribute to the success of our work. We also feel that partnerships and collaboration among the missions, the United Nations country team and police-contributing countries are extremely critical for us to achieve our mandates.

With relation to the question from the representative of Senegal on the issue of language — yes, it is a real challenge. However, we have Arabic speakers and language assistants in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. Therefore, because we take note on how we carry out deployments to ensure that there is equal geographical representation, they have come in very handy in helping us deliver our messages. Our Integrated Mission Training Centre also provides courses that help us to learn a bit of Arabic, and we have taken the initiative to hold English enhancement lessons with both the Sudan police force and internally displaced persons. That has also helped us to build relationships and improve communication with both communities.

Those are the questions that I am able to answer. I very much thank the Council for this opportunity.

The President: I thank Police Commissioner Makatose for the clarifications she has provided.

On behalf of the Council, I would like once again to thank all the briefersfor their very interesting perspectives and insights.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8087

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8087th meeting
Tuesday, 7 November 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Cardi	(Italy)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Woldeyes
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skau
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Tachco
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Letter dated 31 October 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/917)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-36789 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Letter dated 31 October 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/917)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/917, which contains a letter dated 31 October 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

The Council has before it the text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank Council members for their valuable contributions to the statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2017/23.

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8088

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8088th meeting
Tuesday, 7 November 2017, 10.05 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Cardi	(Italy)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	China	Mr. Zhang Dianbin
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Woldeyes
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skau
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Tachco
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia (S/2017/859)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia (S/2017/859)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Somalia to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/927, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/859, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2383 (2017).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Our delegation supported today's resolution 2383 (2017). However, we would note that there is a regional link to the mandate extended by the resolution. That approach has some positive aspects. At the same time, in our view, combating piracy requires significant comprehensive measures and a more global format. Clearly, that would enable more effective crafting of common approaches to fighting piracy and other types of crimes at sea, as well as enabling an exchange of experiences, including with regard to criminal prosecution of pirates. We believe that the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia could be the most successful platform for such efforts.

Resolution 2383 (2017) underscores the fact that piracy constitutes and engine for corruption, terrorism and other crimes. Maritime crime also includes illegal trafficking in weapons and narcotics, as well as other types of crimes. In practice, pirates are frequently implicated in illegal activities that are not directly linked to the seizure of vessels. In that regard, in the foreseeable future, it would be wise for us to consider optimal means of countering such threats.

In conclusion, we would like to stress that, on the whole, the Security Council must continue to play a leading political role in the fight against piracy. Work along those lines is an example of the effectiveness of the Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Somalia.

Mr. Osman (Somalia): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of November. We are confident that your able leadership will guide the Council in the right direction.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia would like to convey its sincere gratitude to the Member States of the regional and international organizations assisting Somalia in the challenge of combating the scourge of piracy off the coast of Somalia. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his report before us today (S/2017/859).

The Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia welcomes the renewal of the mandate, in accordance with resolution 2316 (2016), in securing the international and territorial waters off the coast of Somalia for the safe conduct of shipping and navigation. Additionally, we welcome the acknowledgement in the text of resolution 2383 (2017) that the phenomenon of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Somalia's exclusive economic zone results in a loss of hundreds of

millions of dollars in lost revenue and could lead to the destabilization of the coastal communities of Somalia.

Noting the Secretary-General's report of 12 October 2017 on piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia and the complex linkage between piracy and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, we ask Member States and international organizations to support the Federal Government of Somalia in its efforts to address illegal fishing in Somalia's exclusive economic zone.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia is working assiduously to tackle the piracy and illegal fishing problems. The Federal Government of Somalia established the Maritime Security Coordination Committee as a mechanism to showcase the Government's initiatives to address illegal fishing through six areas of importance to Somalia: maritime governance, maritime safety at sea, maritime response and recovery, maritime law enforcement, maritime security and the maritime economy.

The problem of illegal impacts Somalia more acutely and adversely in that it has the longest coastline — 3,323 kilometres — in the contiguous continent of Africa. A key underlying economic cause of piracy in Somalia is the depletion of seafood resources through illegal fishing by foreign companies. According to Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General and current Chairperson of the Africa Progress Panel, "natural resources plunder is organized theft disguised as commerce". Mr. Annan has further indicated that

> "commercial trawlers that operate under flags of convenience and unload in ports that do not record their catch are unethical and illegal".

The root causes of piracy, in addition to illegal fishing, are poor State control of land, the lack of legal economic opportunities and the absence of the rule of law. Incidents of piracy off the coast of Somalia have increasingly dropped, but piracy could easily escalate again should the naval patrolling lessen before Somalia's maritime forces are built and fit to control Somalia's exclusive economic zone.

If it is to be effective and fair, the renewed Security Council resolution on piracy must address the devastation caused by the wide prevalence of illegal fishing in Somalia's exclusive economic zone on Somali fisheries and coastal communities. Reality on the ground has changed materially since the adoption of resolution 2316 (2016).

First, President Farmajo's Government in Somalia is seriously committed to rebuilding the country's maritime security, with the assistance of the European Union as part of the programme under the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

Secondly, we are taking several measures to demonstrate our determination, such as the proposed enactment of new legislation that would designate piracy offences as criminal activity, with long prison sentences, as well as the building of a new correctional facility that can hold potential perpetrators of piracy crimes.

Thirdly, we are building the capacities and maritime security governance of the authorities of regions with coastline in Somalia, in such critical areas as the commissioning of coast guard forces, legal and prosecution capacity, and the rebuilding and revival of the maritime economy to create jobs and generate income, particularly for young people.

The value of Somalia's fishing licenses is significantly and adversely affected by the widespread prevalence of illegal fishing. Fishing licenses issued by the Somali authorities will not be attractive to fishing companies, as they cannot compete in the market with those who get it free of charge — that is, illegally. This will negatively affect the potential revenue of the Government, which in turn undermines the ability of the local economy to create jobs and generate income for young people. Thus, illegal fishing enhances security risks. If the Security Council does not address the devastating consequences of illegal fishing, it will further exacerbate the widespread strong feelings and sentiments of the coastal communities, as well as the population as a whole.

Somalia once again thanks the entire Security Council for its efforts in Somalia in all areas, including piracy. We welcome both the long-term and the short-term recommendations, suggestions and solutions set out in today's resolution and the Secretary-General's report, and we encourage more research into the complex link between piracy and illegal fishing. My delegation assures the Council of its full cooperation on this matter, and remains fully engaged in its implementation.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.